



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: 2017

### PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

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The first signs of mental illness typically appear during adolescence. By promoting mental wellness and early detection, we can prevent more serious problems later in life.



#### SUPPORT:

- ✓ **Senate Bill 17-068** would help elementary schools hire school counselors and other mental health professionals.
- ✓ The **governor's budget** would add 150 mental health professionals to Colorado schools.



### COVERAGE & DELIVERY

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Current law requires insurers to provide equal coverage for mental and physical care and to maintain an adequate network of providers. By enforcing these requirements – and by integrating mental health into the primary care system – we can make it easier for Coloradans to get the services they need.

#### OPPOSE:

- ✗ **Senate Bill 17-003** would repeal the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, jeopardizing insurance coverage for more than 200,000 Coloradans.

## FACILITIES & SERVICES

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For thousands of Coloradans with serious mental health or substance use disorders, a shortage of therapeutic services has resulted in incarceration, homelessness, or suicide. By providing inpatient, outpatient and residential care, transition and diversion programs, and supportive housing, we can save money and improve lives.

### SUPPORT:

- ✓ **Senate Bill 17-207** would end the use of jails to place Coloradans on mental health holds and improve the first line of response to mental health emergencies.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 17-012** would streamline the process by which Coloradans in the criminal and juvenile justice systems are restored to competency.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 17-019** would make it easier for Coloradans in the criminal and juvenile justice systems to receive consistent, effective medication – at a lower cost to the state.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 17-021** would provide housing or reentry services for 3,000 Coloradans with serious mental illness exiting the criminal justice system each year.
- ✓ The **governor's budget** would provide housing for 654 Coloradans with serious mental illness.
- ✓ The **governor's budget** would increase mental health services for juveniles in state detention facilities.
- ✓ The **governor's budget** would add eight addiction counselors to the state mental health institutes.