

COLORADO PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND MENTAL HEALTH COLORADO

# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

2018

We share a commitment to preventing and treating mental health and substance use disorders. Listed below are some of our priorities in this year's legislative session. Visit our new [advocacy page](#) to learn more.

## **Reauthorizing the Child Mental Health Treatment Act**

### HOUSE BILL 18-1094

Indefinitely extends a program for children whose families do not meet Medicaid income requirements. The program provides residential and/or community treatment without requiring parents to relinquish custody of their children. The bill also expedites the hearing, evaluation, and appeals process for families in crisis.

## **Adopting the Psychology Interstate Compact**

### HOUSE BILL 18-1017

Increases mental health access and appropriate treatment. An interstate agreement would allow Colorado psychologists to treat individuals in other participating states via telepsychology. Patients in Colorado would be able to receive telepsychology from providers in other states.



## OPIOID INTERIM COMMITTEE BILLS

### **Expanding access to behavioral health care providers**

#### SENATE BILL 18-24

Provides loan repayments to substance use providers in designated shortage areas.

### **Preventing opioid misuse in Colorado**

#### HOUSE BILL 18-1003

Expands training programs for substance use disorder screenings, brief intervention and referral practices, and continuing education.

### **Creating a clean syringe exchange pilot program**

#### SENATE BILL 18-40

Creates a supervised clean injection facility pilot program in Denver.

### **Adding residential and in-patient substance use services to Medicaid**

#### HOUSE BILL 18-1136

Requests a federal waiver to add a Medicaid benefit for residential and in-patient substance use disorder treatment.

## SUICIDE PREVENTION BILLS

### **Improving care coordination among behavioral health professionals**

#### SENATE BILL 18-153

Requires health care facilities to have a plan for individuals transitioning from inpatient to outpatient care.

### **Preventing suicide by strengthening life skills in students**

#### SENATE BILL 18-114

Provides grants to schools for training and education programs to reduce the risk of student suicide.



