



# COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE: HOW IT WORKS & HOW TO WORK IT

PRESENTED BY: EMMA HUDSON CONSULTING



# WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Quick overview of the Colorado government & legislature
- How a bill becomes law
- GPR Committee Overview
- Examples of recent mental health bills
- Types of advocacy available
- How to give (excellent) testimony!

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# OVERVIEW OF COLORADO GOVERNMENT

A THREE-LEGGED STOOL!



# THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

## Executive Branch

- Led by the Governor (Jared Polis)
- Ensures the laws passed by the Legislature are properly executed (RULE MAKING!)
- Gov proposes state budget
- Gov appoints executive directors to 16 departments (incl. HCPF/DHS)



## Legislative Branch

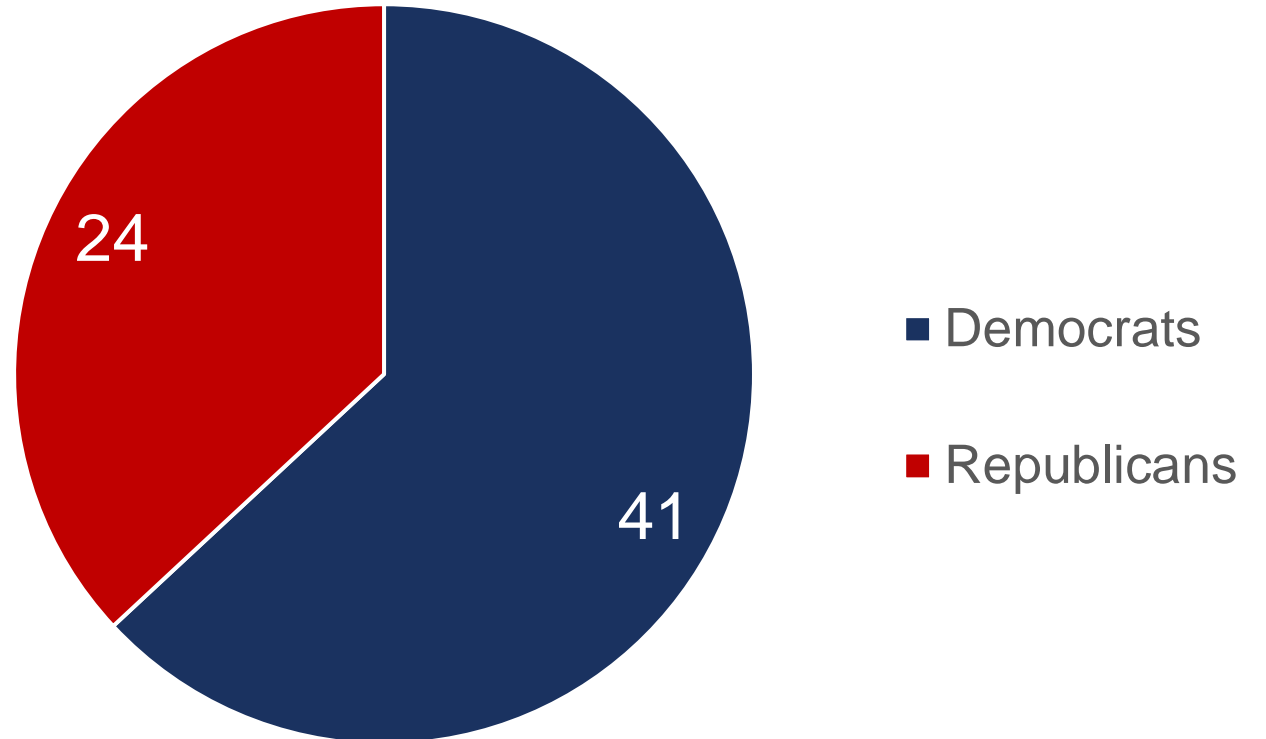
- The Colorado legislature (General Assembly) is made of up two chambers – House of Representatives & Senate – with a total of 100 legislators
- General Assembly makes and revises laws for the state

## Judicial Branch

- There are four primary courts in Colorado
  - County courts
  - District courts
  - The Court of Appeals
  - The Supreme Court
- Interprets and administers the law

# STATE HOUSE

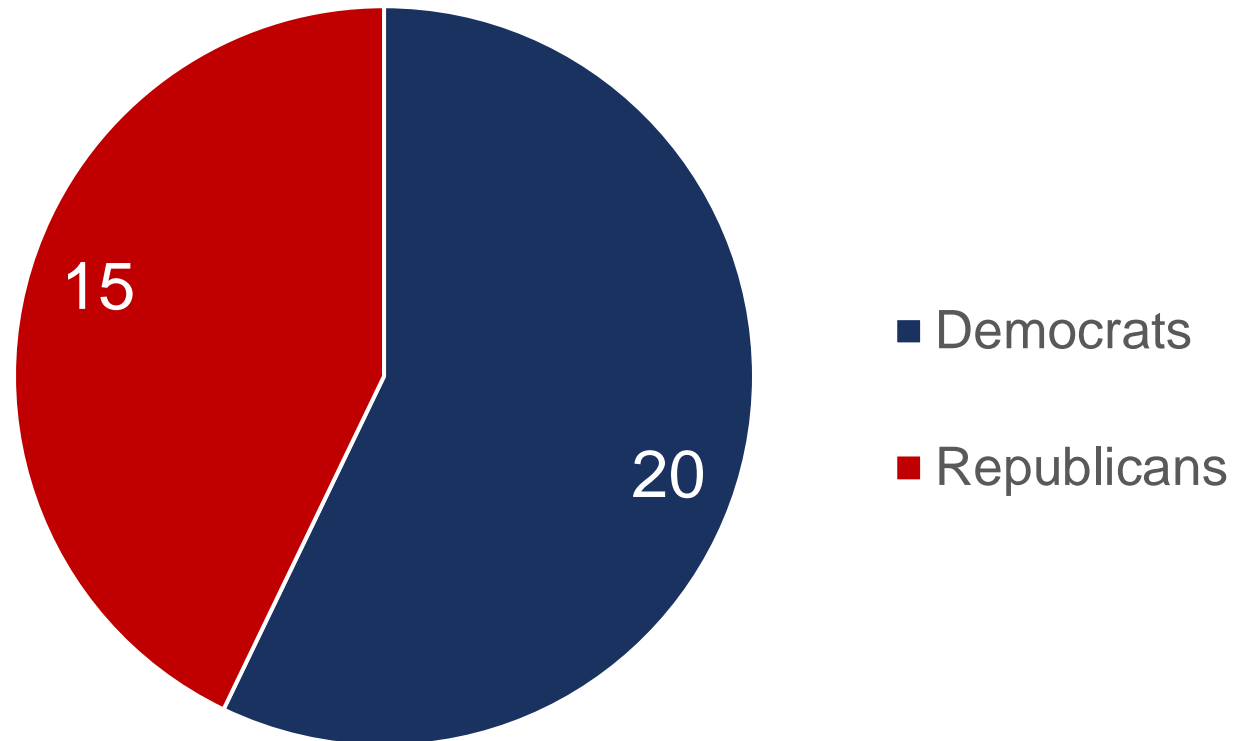
- 65 total members
- Elected every two years
- Overseen by Speaker of the House



\*These numbers are likely to change in Nov!

# STATE SENATE

- 35 total members
- Elected every four years
- Overseen by Senate President



\*These numbers are likely to change in Nov!

## POP QUIZ:

What's it called when one party has control of the Governor's office, the House, and the Senate?

**TRIFECTA CONTROL**



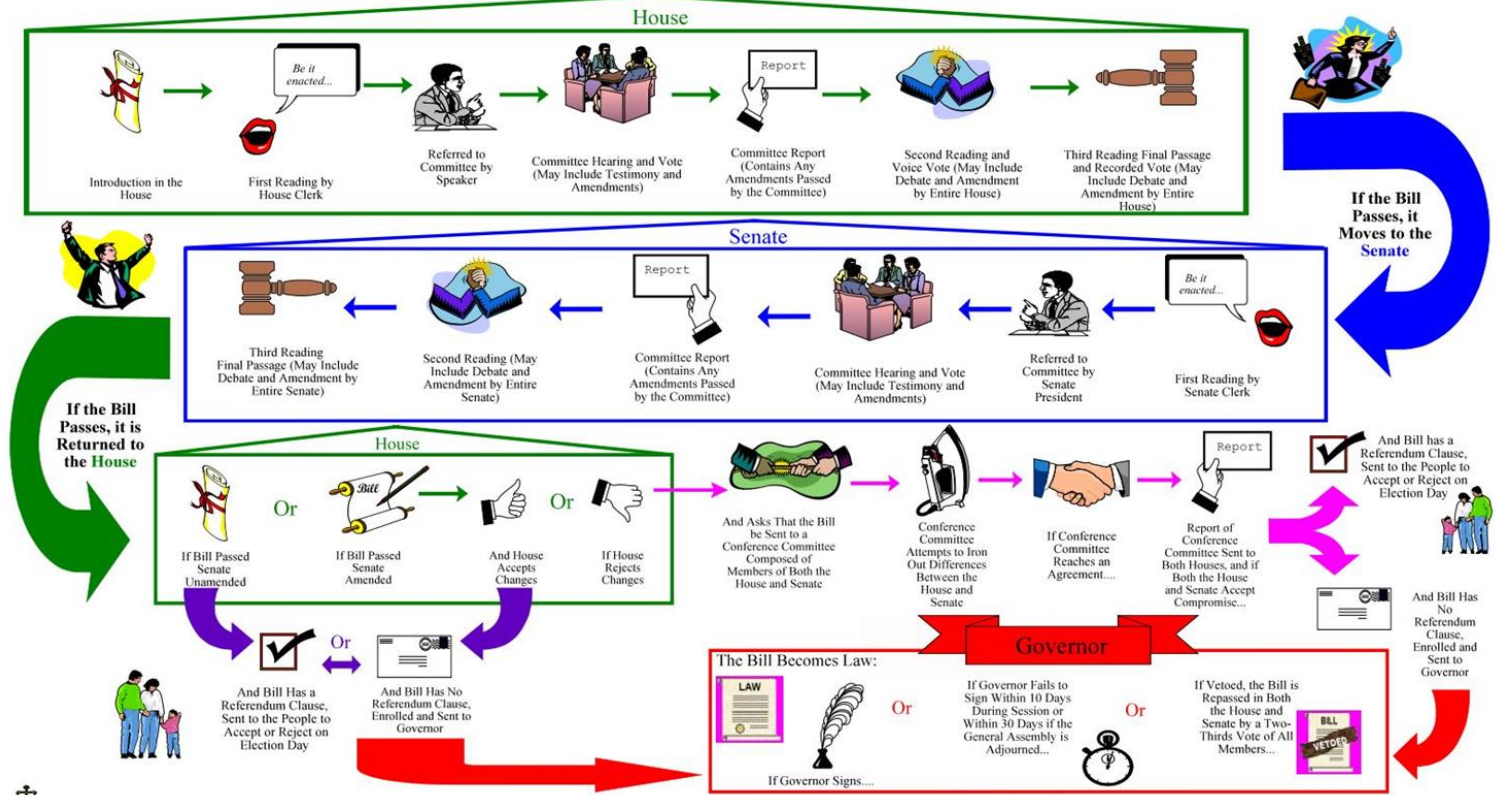
# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

FORGET ABOUT SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK!





## How a Bill Becomes Colorado Law\*

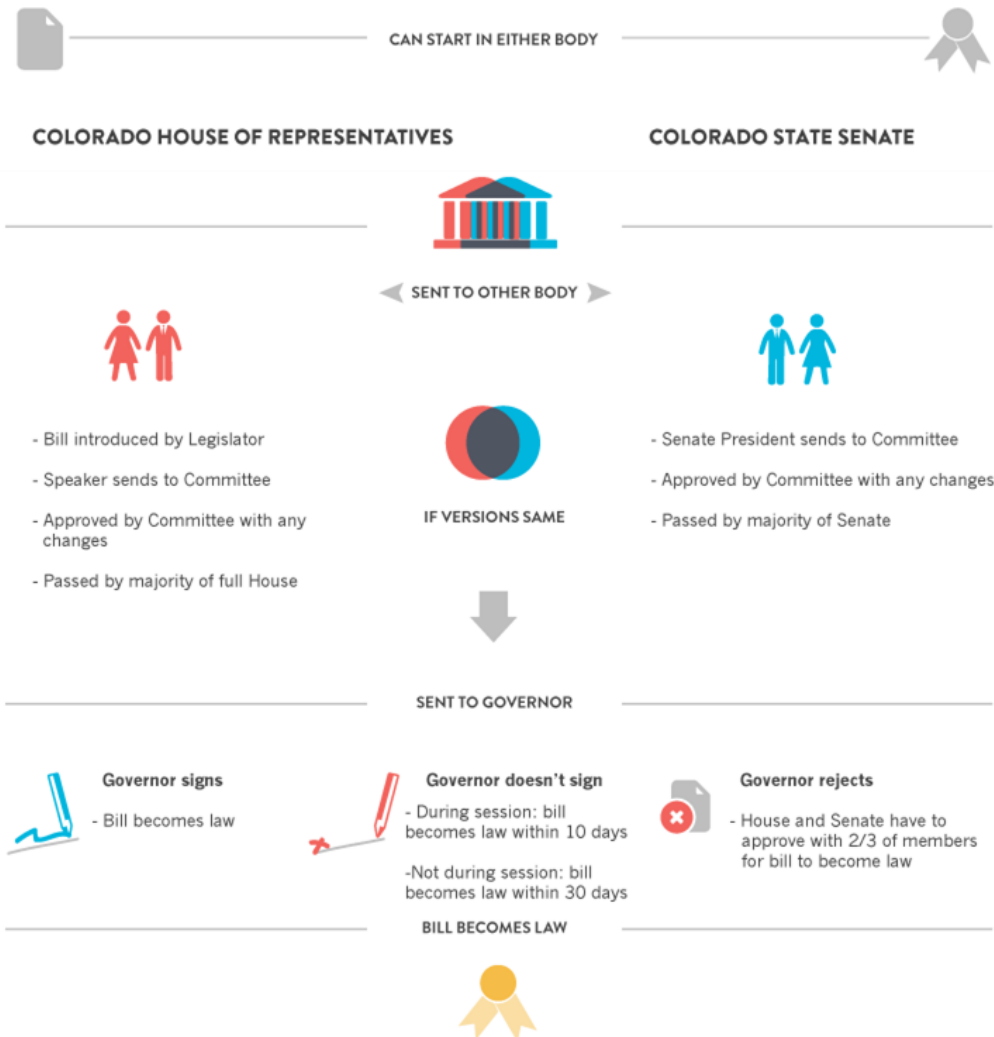


LOOK...  
IT'S SIMPLE



\* Assumes Bill is a House bill, a Senate Bill Follows a Similar Process Beginning in the Senate

# OKAY...HERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT



## Most Important Things to Know:

- The bill goes to Committee before getting a vote by the full Chamber
- Legislators get two main votes on the bill in each chamber
- Most bill negotiation happens **BEFORE** the bill ever makes it to a full vote by the full chamber



# Alliance GRACE Committee

THE WHO, WHAT, & HOW



# Alliance GRACE Committee

## Alliance GRACE Committee:

- **Committee Co-Chairs:** Randy Brodersen, North Metro Community Services and Shari Repinski, Rocky Mountain Human Services
  
- **Alliance President/Non-Voting GRACE Member:** Jodi Walters, Parker Personal Care Homes
  
- **PASA Members**
  - Tim Cunningham, Cheyenne Village
  - Alexis Marsh, Easterseals Colorado
  - Sally Montgomery, Mosaic
  - David Hatfield, Oliver Behavioral Consultants
  - Nardos Tesfamichael, Thrive Community Options
  
- **CCB Members**
  - Rob DeHerrera, Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
  - Tara Kiene, Community Connections, Inc.
  - Ksana Oglesby, Mountain Valley Developmental Services, Inc.

# GRACE COMMITTEE: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Committee Charge:** To influence and inform members of the Colorado Legislature and State Departments with respect to the Colorado Community Centered System and to keep Alliance members informed of all relevant government and legislative activities.
  - Create Alliance's policy priorities in collaboration with staff
  - Participate in bill review, position decision-making, and strategic advice
  - Be available during legislative session for critical decision making on a tight turn-around
  - Act as liaison between broader membership and the EXEC committee on policy issues
  - Support Alliance staff in thinking about long-term policy change via shock teams and other processes
  - Participate in legislative outreach, as needed

# STAY INFORMED!

Home | Learn more about Alliance | IDD Services & Policy | IDD Legislation | Membership Services | Member Portal

Colorado Communities United for People with Developmental Disabilities

IDD Jobs

emma

### Members Only Bill Tracker

This bill tracker has been made to specifically track bills being monitored by Alliance staff due to their potential impact on Alliance members or the IDD system as a whole. This bill tracker may include Alliance notes and positions.

[FIND YOUR AGENCY'S LEGISLATORS 2021-22](#)

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Alliance Member Only Tracker

#### Alliance Member Only Tracker

HB22-1031	Consumer Right To Repair Powered Wheelchairs
<b>Comment:</b>	
<b>Stakeholder Comments:</b>	
<b>Member Comments:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Monitor</b>
<b>Calendar Notification:</b>	NOT ON CALENDAR
<b>Short Title:</b>	Consumer Right To Repair Powered Wheelchairs
<b>Sponsors:</b>	B. Titone (D)   D. Ortiz (D) / R. Zenzinger (D)   J. Cooke (R)
<b>Summary:</b>	Usually, an owner of a powered wheelchair must seek diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services of the wheelchair from the manufacturer.

## Alliance Member Benefits

- A-Team News
- Capitol Chronicles
- GRACE Reports to the Board
- GRACE bill review document
- Alliance Website:  
[www.alliancecolorado.com](http://www.alliancecolorado.com)
- Member Portal
  - Government Relations Updates
  - Alliance Legislation Tracker



# EXAMPLES OF RECENT IDD POLICY

JUST A SAMPLE...



# 2022-2023 IDD Rates

## IDD Rate Increases, 2022-2023

\*Awaiting decision on further extension

Source	Service	Percent Increase	Effective Date
ARPA	Many IDD services (Day, ResEmpl., etc.)	2.11%	Mar 21 – Jul 31, 2022*
ARPA with base wage requirement (Made permanent in 22-23 Long Bill)	GRSS	8-11%	Jan 1, 2022
	IRSS	9-14%	Jan 1, 2022
	Enhanced homemaker	11%	Jan 1, 2022
	Homemaker (SLS, CES)	16%	Jan 1, 2022
	Individual Day Respite (SLS, CES)	42%	Jan 1, 2022
	Individual Respite (CHRP)	39%	Jan 1, 2022
	Job Coaching	7-20%	Jan 1, 2022
	Job Development	7% (Ind.), 16% (Group)	Jan 1, 2022
	Personal Care (SLS)	13%	Jan 1, 2022
	Prevocational Services	12-27%	Jan 1, 2022
	Specialized Habilitation	8-27%	Jan 1, 2022
Supported Community Connections	8-22%	Jan 1, 2022	
ARPA	Targeted Case Management	2.11%	Apr 1, 2022 – Jun 30, 2023
22-23 Long Bill	NMT, Massage (SCI, CLLI)	TBD	Upon CMS Approval
	All HCBS <i>except</i> NMT and Massage (SCI, CLLI)	2%	July 1, 2022



# ALLIANCE 2022 BILLS

## Alliance tracked 38 bills in the 2022 legislative session!

- Out of the 38 bills Alliance tracked, 34 passed and will become law pending the Governor's signature.
- Alliance supported 22 bills in the 2022 legislative session. All 22 bills that Alliance supported this year passed through the legislature and will become law pending the Governor's signature.
- A few interesting bills:
  - HB22-1114: Transportation Services For Medicaid Waiver Recipients
  - HB22-1214: Behavioral Health Crisis Response System
  - HB22-1260: Access To Medically Necessary Services For Students
  - HB22-1295: Department Early Childhood And Universal Preschool Program
  - HB22-1399: Music Therapist Title Protection

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# LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE KITCHEN, YOU'RE ON THE MENU



## BEGINNER ADVOCACY (2-15 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME)

- Find out who represents you
- Program your elected leaders' contact info into your phone
- Register to vote
- Learn how a bill becomes a law in Colorado
  - (YouTube clip available for folks who prefer audio visual)

## LET'S TRY IT OUT...

- Find out who represents you!
  - Take out your phone or other device and go to:  
<https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>
  - Type in your address
  - Google that person's name and find out one fact about them



## INTERMEDIATE ADVOCACY (10-60 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME)

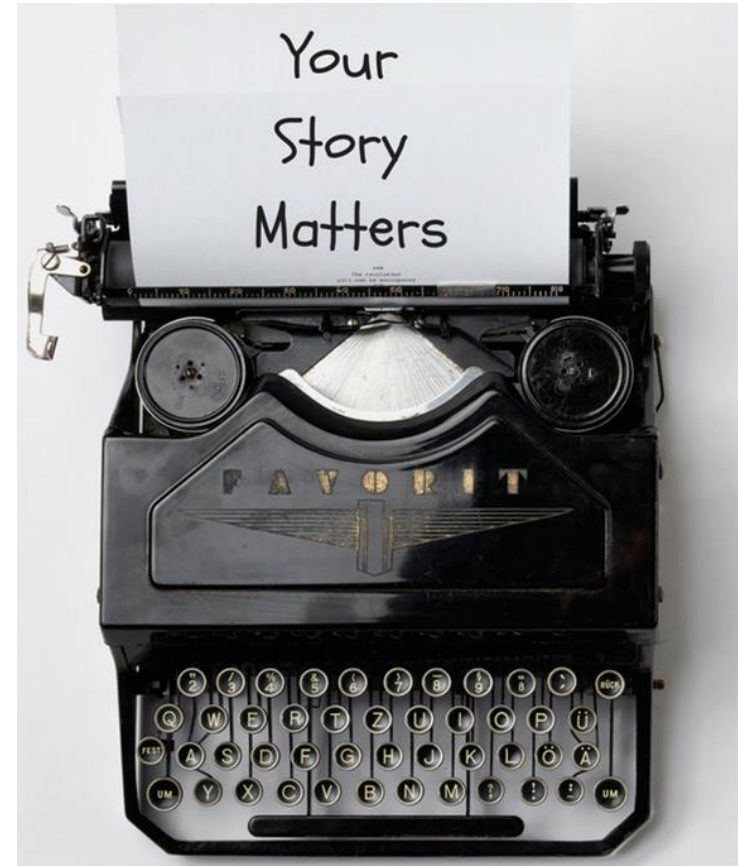
- Learn how your legislators voted on important bills (click on votes next to the bill of interest)
- Call or visit your legislators to discuss issues you care about
- Write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper
- Volunteer to help a candidate, cause, or organization
- Attend a hearing on a bill of interest to you and listen to the arguments for and against it

## ADVANCED ADVOCACY (ONE HOUR TO ONE DAY OF YOUR TIME)

- Attend a hearing on a bill of interest to you and testify in support or opposition
- Attend a candidate forum and ask about their stance on issues important to you
- Create a lasting relationship with a legislator by being an on-going resource for them on issues that are important to you
- Connect with or become a GRACE Committee member!
- Participate in a campaign – donate, knock doors, or contribute to an appropriate political committee

# WHY TESTIFY?

- Legislators truly *WANT* to hear from *YOU*
- YOU'RE THE EXPERT!
- The population you serve needs as many advocates as possible!
- It makes a difference. It really does.



# TESTIMONY TIPS

- Remote, In-Person, or Written available
- Timing – impossible to know
- Practice
- Include:
  - Introduction (who you are and why you're an expert)
  - State your position (support, oppose, amend)
  - Tell a story
  - Facts/Stats are good, but don't go overboard
  - Make the "ASK"
  - Thank them for their time and consideration
  - Offer to answer any questions
- **STAY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT**
- Don't be reactive!





## BECOME A CRITICAL DONOR: Alliance COIDD Political Committee

- What's a political committee?
- How much can I give?
- How does it help?
- What do we do with it?
- <https://www.coiddalliance.com/>



## WRAP UP

- You now know more about the Colorado legislature than 99% of Coloradans
- That makes you an expert!
- Use your power for good!

# THANK YOU!

We invite you to join us in the 2023 legislative session to make an impact in Colorado!



**EMMA HUDSON CONSULTING LLC**

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