

BPW COLORADO



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2022

PRESENTED BY EVIE HUDAK, BPW COLORADO PRESIDENT

AGENDA

- 8:45 a.m. Zoom opens for networking
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and review of BPW Advocacy Process
- 9:30 a.m. Review of BPW Colorado Legislative Platform
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Panel presentations and Q-&-A
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation by Women's Lobby

Panel:

- The crisis in access to child care – *M. Michael Cooke, Director of Early Childhood Transition*
- The rise in domestic violence – *Jillian J. Price, Deputy Attorney General*
- The Great Resignation – *Chelle Johnson, Best You Career Advantage*
- Discrimination in the workplace – *Laura Wolf, Spark Justice*



BPW COLORADO PROCESS FOR TAKING POSITIONS ON BILLS

BPW'S PROCESS FOR ADVOCACY

- Bills are selected for review based on BPW Colorado's **Advocacy Platform**.
- The Legislative Bills Subcommittee, which has one representative from each chapter, meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. during the legislative session.
- This committee determines BPW's positions on selected bills.
- BPW's positions are shared with the Women's Lobby of Colorado, which does most of the lobbying.
- Occasionally, BPW focuses on one or two key bills and advocates directly with legislators on them.



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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN COLORADO

HOW LAWS ARE MADE

1. Legislators have bills drafted, which are given a number and assigned to committee(s).
2. **Committee hearing(s):** Bills must be passed by committee(s) to continue; *this is the only opportunity for the public to testify.*
3. Bills are passed on 2nd Reading (amendment phase) and 3rd Reading (final passage).
4. Repeat steps 2-3 in the other chamber (*bills keep their original number*).
5. The Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the bill; once it becomes law, it is called an “Act.”

EXTRA STEPS FOR BILLS WITH A COST


- If a bill requires funding, the bill will have a “Fiscal Note” which explains what the cost is and tells where the money will come from (*fees, federal funds, state General Fund, or grants*).
- If the bill requires more than \$3,000 of state funding, it will be assigned/referred to the Appropriations Committee. *No testimony is allowed in a hearing of this committee.*
- If a bill passes the Appropriations Committee, it will have an “appropriations clause” added.



THE MAIN PAGE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE
[HTTP://LEG.COLORADO.GOV](http://leg.colorado.gov)

BPW ADVOCACY PLATFORM

The BPW Advocacy Platform is organized around three priorities:

 • Economic Equity and Justice

 • Health Equity and Justice

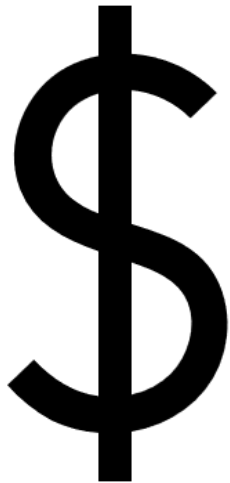
 • Human Rights



ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

Economic Equity and Justice

- Access to pay equity and retirement equity
- Access to education, training, and promotional opportunities
- Access to equal opportunities in the workplace and corporate boards
- Access to women business enterprise procurement process
- Access to quality, affordable dependent care (child, elderly or disabled)
- Access to funding and capital for entrepreneurial activity
- Access to affordable and attainable housing



ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE

BILLS OF INTEREST

HB22-1009, Continue Workforce Diploma Pilot Program – **SUPPORT**

HB22-1051, Modify Affordable Housing Tax Credit – **SUPPORT**

HB22-1102, Veterans and Military Status in Fair Housing – **SUPPORT**

HB22-1196, Pay Equity Study – **SUPPORT**



HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Health Equity and Justice

- Access to affordable care for all
- Reproductive choice
- Paid sick leave
- Family and medical leave
- Equal research funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women and girls
- Prevention of pregnancy and infant care discrimination in the workplace (reasonable accommodations for breast feeding/breast pumping and pregnancy related conditions)
- Ensure workplace safety
- Expansion of mental health coverage and services



HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE

BILLS OF INTEREST

SB22-049, Victims Rights Act – **SUPPORT**

HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life at Conception – **OPPOSE**

HB22-1055, Sales Tax Exemption for Essential Hygiene Products – **SUPPORT**

HB22-1079, Abolishing Abortion in Colorado – **OPPOSE**

HB22-1133, Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund – **SUPPORT**

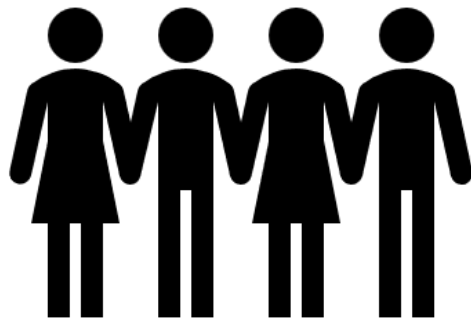


HUMAN RIGHTS



Human Rights – recognition that women's rights are human rights

- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Passage of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Eradicate domestic violence and the electronic and physical stalking, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and discrimination
- Oppose human trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery
- Equal education opportunity, including adequate funding of public education, preschool through postsecondary
- Support equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons
- Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against minority women
- Support policies and practices that promote environmental sustainability
- Support the endeavors of and improve conditions for military-affiliated women
- Support equitable treatment of women in the criminal justice system, including health and hygiene



HUMAN RIGHTS

BILLS OF INTEREST

*SB22-100, Continue Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board – **SUPPORT***

*HB22-1041, Privacy Protections for Protected Persons – **SUPPORT***

*HB22-1094, Medical Assistance for Survivors of Torture – **SUPPORT***

*HB22-1134, Measures to Reduce Single-Use Meal Accessories – **SUPPORT***

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PLATFORM

1) To strengthen our alignment with NFBPWC, we propose that under Human Rights, we change, “Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against minority women,” to say: **“Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), minority, and marginalized women.”**

2) To advance our state priorities, we propose adding the following under Human Rights: **“Support a waiting period before the purchase of a firearm and a ban on assault weapons.”**

PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND Q&A

INTRODUCING OUR PANELISTS



M. MICHAEL COOKE – The Child Care Crisis



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Appointed by Governor Polis to lead the transition to the new Department of Early Childhood
- Previously served as Executive Director of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies and Department of Revenue
- Douglas County Commissioner in 1990s

JILLIAN J. PRICE – The Rise in Violence Against Women



HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Appeals*
- Leads Criminal Appeals Section of the Colorado Attorney General's Office, the state's prosecutorial authority at the appellate level of our criminal justice system
- J.D. from University of Denver (2008)
- Experience in private practice, providing insurance defense to nonprofit organizations

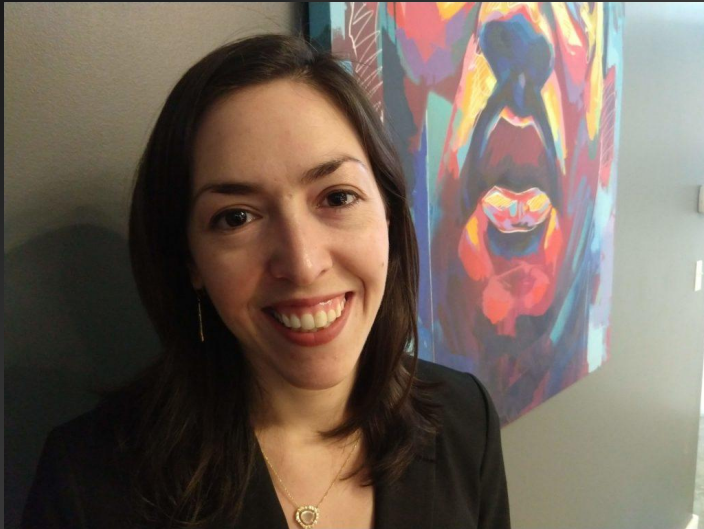
CHELLE JOHNSON – The Great Resignation



HIGHLIGHTS:

- *CEO and Founder, Best You Career Advantage*
- Offers visionary career coaching services that support clients through all stages of career search and development
- Over 20 years of experience in talent acquisition and human resource leadership roles
- Helps high achievers and diversity allies discover their strengths and realize abundance in their careers and lives

LAURA WOLF – Fighting Discrimination in the Workplace



HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Founding partner* of Spark Justice Law, LLC
- Graduated from Harvard Law School
- *Judicial clerk* for Honorable R. Brooke Jackson, United States District Court in Colorado
- *Chair*, Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
- *Board Member*, Lawyers' Civil Rights Commission and Colorado Women's Bar Association
- *Former Chair*, Colorado Bar Association Civil Rights Section

BPW & THE WOMEN'S LOBBY



BPW Colorado is a member of the Women's Lobby of Colorado (WLC).

Mission of the WLC

The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice.

By consistently maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's Capitol, our all-volunteer organization has kept the needs of women front and center in our state's public policy debates for more than a decade.