



# STATE LEGISLATURE REPORT

## WE ARE YOUR VOICE AT THE STATE CAPITOL

This year, more than 650 bills were introduced during the state legislative session, many affecting your bottom line and how you run your business. The Chamber & EDC advocates on your behalf, engaging with lawmakers and partners across the state to seek a positive business climate that allows Pikes Peak region businesses to grow and thrive, and secure a strong state economy.

*Together, we are a strong collective voice.*

Every fall, we craft our legislative agenda based on input from member businesses, the Chamber & EDC Board of Directors, Board of Governors, and Government Affairs Council members. You can join these discussions by attending our Legislative Roundtable, town hall meetings, legislative updates, and other programs we host throughout the year.

## OUR 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1

COVID-19 Recovery

**OUR GOAL:**

Advocate for policies that help mitigate the effects the pandemic had on businesses

2

Affordable Housing

**OUR GOAL:**

Support policies and funding that address attainable workforce housing, to support our community's talent needs and enhance the region's economic competitiveness at state and national levels

3

Workforce

**OUR GOAL:**

Support legislation that enables our ability to attract, retain, and develop a skilled labor pool

# STATE LEGISLATURE RESULTS

## 1 COVID-19 RECOVERY

- » Supported numerous bills that provided funding to upskill workers, allow retailers to retain sales tax they collected.
- » Strongly opposed HB22-1355. The bill will create a statewide recycling program, which will be administered by a nonprofit. The bill will mandate businesses to pay dues to a state created nonprofit based on the amount of packing material a business uses. Businesses, especially small businesses cannot afford this bill as many of them are still recovering from the ramifications of the pandemic **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.
- » Championed SB22-234, which pays back the **\$600 million** loan the state took from the federal government to fund unemployment disbursements during the pandemic. The passage of this bill will prevent businesses from seeing large increases in unemployment insurance **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.

## 3 WORKFORCE

- » Advocated for HB22-1350, which will provide **\$90 million** in grant funding to develop regional labor market needs and workforce developments needs. This is especially important as we are still mitigating the effects COVID-19 had on the labor market **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.
- » Supported HB22-1050, which addresses the shortage of health care providers in Colorado. The bill reduces the barriers to integrate international medical graduates into Colorado's healthcare workforce **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.

## 2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- » Opposed and strongly fought against HB22-1287, which would have established rent control on mobile home lots. With our advocacy the rent control provision in this bill was removed **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.
- » Supported HB22-1127, which would have made single tenants who make under \$40,000 or married tenants who make under \$80,000 a year eligible for up to a \$17,500 income tax deduction **(Postponed Indefinitely, House Committee on Finance)**.
- » Successfully advocated for over **\$200 million** in funding to support affordable and attainable housing.
- » Fought against HB22-1363 and SB22-136, both of which would have drastically altered the way special districts are used to build housing in Colorado. Both bills failed, saving developers and home buyers thousands of dollars **(HB22-1363: Postponed Indefinitely, Senate Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs. SB22-136: Postponed Indefinitely, Senate Committee on Local Government)**.
- » Testified in support of SB22-077. The passage of this bill will ensure that military spouses who specialize in counseling will face a lessened administrative burden in receiving their counseling license in Colorado, which enables them to enter our workforce and continue their careers more expediently **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.
- » Supported SB22-140, which will provide work-based learning opportunities for youth and adults who have historically been excluded from these opportunities. The bill also aids new Americans and those learning English with skill and language development **(Signed by Governor Polis)**.