



## CCI's 2017 Human Services Bills

### 1.) Flexibility in Determining Factors for the Child Welfare Allocation Formula

Current statute specifies two factors that must be considered when developing a formula to distribute child welfare funding. In practice, however, the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Child Welfare Allocation Committee (CWAC) annually develop formulas that consider the cost drivers of current practices in the evolving field of child welfare. Rather than identify specific factors in statute, CDHS in conjunction with the CWAC should simply retain the flexibility to determine the factors that directly affect those in need of child welfare services. (C.R.S. § 26-5-104 (3)(a)(IV))

### 2.) Enforceable Protection Orders in Dependency & Neglect Cases

Currently during Dependency & Neglect (D&N) cases, a judge may issue a “no contact” order to prevent contact between parties. If a party violates the order, a judge may hold a contempt proceeding but law enforcement cannot arrest the violator for contacting the other party. “No contact” orders also cease to exist once the D&N case is closed, even if safety concerns remain. This bill authorizes judges to grant a civil protection order when a “no contact” order would not sufficiently protect a child. Unlike “no contact” orders, protection orders are placed in the central registry used by law enforcement. Therefore, violation of a protection order is a crime, so law enforcement can arrest violators. Also, if in the best interest of the child, the court may continue the protection order after the D&N case closes, eliminating the need for a family to involve another court to request the order. This bill gives judges and law enforcement greater ability to protect children while removing government intervention swiftly and safely. (C.R.S. § 19-1-114)

### 3.) Allocation of Parental Responsibilities in Juvenile Delinquency Cases

During a juvenile delinquency case, the court sometimes removes a juvenile from the custody of a parent and grants temporary custody to a custodian, such as a grandparent. This arrangement allows the court to consider the best interests of the juvenile, the victim, and the community by placing the juvenile in an appropriate environment that reduces recidivism and assists the juvenile in becoming a productive member of society. Once the case closes, the temporary custody order goes away even if the parent refuses to take custody of the juvenile again. This may cause a juvenile to end up in out-of-home placement while a separate court action is initiated to continue and make permanent the custodian's custody arrangement. This bill allows the court, *in cases where all parties agree to the custody arrangement*, to grant custody to the custodian without having to open a separate case. This streamlined process encourages permanency for juveniles and supports them in becoming productive members of society. (C.R.S. § 19-1-104)