

## RELEASE: Health and Local Control Advocates Laud Bill That Will Expand Affordable Housing in Colorado

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**\*\*Release\*\***

### **HEALTH AND LOCAL CONTROL ADVOCATES LAUD BILL THAT WILL EXPAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN COLORADO**

*Healthier Colorado and the Colorado Municipal League See HB21-1117 As a Path Forward to Help Curb Colorado's Housing Crisis and Promote Positive Health Outcomes Through Stable and Secure Housing.*

**DENVER, CO:** Today, Healthier Colorado and the Colorado Municipal League express their support for a policy that will help expand affordable housing and derive better health outcomes that are linked to stable and secure housing. [HB21-1117](#) will increase local economic development opportunities, provide housing options for Colorado's workforce, and help mitigate Colorado's worsening housing crisis. Access to affordable housing adversely affects rural areas of the state, young and elderly people, individuals with disabilities, and Black and Latinx communities.

"You can't be healthy without a home, and the edge of eviction isn't much better," said Healthier Colorado executive director Jake Williams. "The pandemic deepened an existing crisis in affordable housing, and the well-being of Coloradans depends upon all levels of government taking action."

Research indicates that stable, secure, and affordable housing predicates the likelihood that a person and their family will be healthy. According to the Colorado Health Institute, families paying excessive amounts of their income for housing often have insufficient resources remaining for other essential needs, including food, medical insurance, and health care. These tradeoffs can threaten the health of all family members, particularly children. [In 2019, 44.1% of those who reported housing instability reported fair or poor health, compared with 26.7% of those with incomes below the federal poverty level.](#)

"For years, municipalities have sought to enhance the relationship with those proposing new development by ensuring that residents needing affordable housing can find a place they can call home," said Colorado Municipal League executive director Kevin Bommer. "This legislation provides that tool for municipalities, and the League is thankful to the sponsors for addressing this critical need."

Local governments need all the tools available to provide their communities with affordable housing options. There is currently a shortage of almost [115,000 affordable housing](#) units available to extremely low-income families. While the average income grew by 4.5% over the past decade, home prices rose by a staggering [77% in Colorado](#). Leveraging public and private partnerships at the local level will expand housing affordability for cities and counties who would choose to use this tool.

HB 21-1117 amends the Colorado land use statute to allow local governments to promote the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments. **Representatives Lontine (D-Denver)** and **Gonzales-Gutierrez (D-Denver)**, and **Senators Gonzales (D-Denver)** and **Rodriguez (D-Denver)** are sponsors of HB21-1117.

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[Healthier Colorado](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising the voices of Coloradans in the public policy process to improve the health of our state's residents. We believe that every Coloradan should have a fair chance at living a healthy life.

[Colorado Municipal League](#) provides advocacy, information, and training supporting exceptional municipal governance.