

# Legislation Update 2021 Session 84<sup>th</sup> Day

REPRESENTATIVE  
ROD PELTON  
MINORITY WHIP

Friends and Neighbors,

I wanted to provide you with another update on the 2021 Legislative Session. In the House of Representatives, several bi-partisan bills have made their way through the legislative process. This includes three of my bills that have been signed into law: **SB21-079**, **HB21-1187**, and **HB21-1097**. These bills and others that I am sponsoring which are still making their way through the House and Senate will all benefit rural Colorado and I am proud to support such legislation.

While I am happy to provide you all with an update on my legislation, I wanted to take the time to bring to your attention the harmful legislation that the democrats are trying to push through this month. House Democrats are moving forward with the following partisan legislation.

### **HB21-1232 Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option**

This bill is a state-run healthcare plan to force insurance companies to lower their premiums by 18% in three years. If these insurance companies cannot lower costs, the public option takes effect and the program of Medicare for all would consume the whole state budget. If implemented, this state option would destroy Colorado's private insurance market and restrict Coloradoans' ability to access care. In my opinion, a Colorado public option for health care is a step backward - we should be focused on improving our current system rather than trying to implement one that is controlled by career politicians.

### **HB21-1251 Appropriate Use Of Chemical Restraints On A Person**

This bill would restrict first responders from being able to administer certain restraints while assisting law enforcement. During emergencies, chemical restraints like ketamine would become illegal with limited parameters making it harder for first responders as they are forced to make split-second decisions when reacting to dangerous situations.

### **HB21-1299 Office Of Gun Violence Prevention**

This bill would create a government agency that would compile data around gun violence in Colorado. At first glance, one might wonder "what harm would it do to compile such information?" However, my concerns are what will the information be used for and do we need to expand more government control on our Second Amendment right. Our priority related to gun violence in Colorado should be mental health issues, not on increasing government control as is idolized by democrats.

### **HB21-1162 Management Of Plastic Products**

This bill would ban plastic bags and polystyrene containers in just a few short months. This democrat-backed plastics ban is creating another hardship for those who have already struggled the most this last year due to the pandemic by imposing more regulations and additional costs onto small businesses, schools, and families.

Another democrat-led proposal is a transportation bill that would impose billions of dollars in fees rolled out by Governor Polis this last week. This proposal will put higher fees on gas, including an increase in gas prices, an increase charge on package deliveries and an increase in rideshares like Uber and Lyft in our state. This would raise costs for Colorado families and would hit rural Colorado the hardest as we are the ones that travel longer distances.

With these harmful democrat-led pieces of legislation, it is going to be an uphill battle this month. Rest assured, I will continue to push back on legislation that will harm Colorado families and rural way of life.

Faithfully,  
Representative Rod Pelton



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