



Dear **Legislators**,

Mental Health Colorado urges you to vote yes on HB1411.

At a time when millions are being forced into isolation and society's anxiety is high due to the economic and health impacts of COVID-19, the state must be prepared to deal with the secondary pandemic of mental health and substance use concerns.

The funding in HB1411 will enable managed service organizations to provide life-saving services to Coloradans in need of substance use care and will allow mental health centers to expand their outreach to children, youth, and families who are experiencing stress due to finances, health, and school and business closures.

In addition, funding will go to crisis response services and will support prevention and wellness activities for the entire community, especially for children and adolescents who will be deeply affected by the trauma of the pandemic.

Mental Health Colorado has fought for many years to construct policies that meet the mental health and substance use needs of Coloradans. HB1411 ensures that prevention, early intervention, and treatment efforts can continue through this difficult time.

This crisis drives the message home that our physical health and our mental health are not separate. **We urge you to vote YES on HB20-1411 to help flatten the curve of mental health needs.**

Sincerely,

Moe Keller
Director of Advocacy
Mental Health Colorado