



For Immediate Release

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Broad Stakeholder Group Introduces Bipartisan Package of Affordable Housing Bills

(April 15th, 2019)-In response to Colorado's growing housing crisis a bipartisan group of legislators have unveiled a package of bills aimed at addressing affordability and access to housing. With the population of Colorado expected to double in the next 25 years this is a problem that will certainly become more severe without pro-active measures being taken.

"Communities throughout the state face unique challenges to housing and homelessness. Our mountain communities face growing workforce housing shortages due to the high cost of building and growing demand for second homes. The Front Range is experiencing the pressure of rapid growth and increased homelessness and across Colorado wages are not keeping up with the increased costs of housing," says San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper.

To pursue policy solutions to affordable housing in Colorado, a diverse group of more than 80 stakeholders was convened in the fall of 2018 by Speaker KC Becker, Representative Jim Wilson, and Senators Don Coram and Dominick Moreno. The group's charge was to identify policies that could garner bipartisan leadership and support from a broad cross-section of stakeholders.

The bill package will include policies which will:

- **Establish a fund for affordable workforce housing initiatives (via [HB 19-1322](#))**
- **Create flexible funding opportunities and incentives for developers (via [HB 19-1319](#))**
- **Expand the State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) (via [HB 19-1228](#))**
- **Create a pilot program to will use tax credits to support employer-assisted housing (via [HB 19-1075](#))**

"I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for putting forth commonsense solutions to the housing issues facing communities across our state. Access to affordable housing is crucial to healthy communities, economic growth and is essential as our state continues to face challenges in meeting the needs of all Coloradans." says Speaker KC Becker.

In addition, stakeholders request that Governor Polis work with the group to identify long-term solutions to the state's housing crisis. The group has recommended this be accomplished through creation of a **Strategic Planning Group on Affordable Workforce Housing Solutions**.

The bill package will be making its way through the legislative process during the last month of session.

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CCAT: Counties across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively, CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

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