

State Legislative Report
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The State Legislature has Interim Committees meeting during the Summer. Most of them will have legislation to introduce during the regular session that starts in January. The important ones are:

Poverty Reduction: This committee is looking at the causes of poverty and looking for ways in which the state can help reduce it.

Hospice and Palliative Care: Hospice Care is used more in some states than others. The use of Hospice reduces the cost for end of life and makes it less of a high stress and painful experience for the dying and their family. Colorado as well as other states are looking at why we do not use it more.

Long Term Fiscal Stability: This Committee is looking at what the long term effect of TABOR, Amendment 23 and Gallagher will have on the state. The Committee is composed of legislatures and interested members of the public.

Health Care: I have been attending this Committee for the Colorado Senior Lobby. They have had public testimony about rural health, dental health, charging women more for private insurance, and funding Medicaid and CHIPS. They also had a report about what might be coming out of Washington.

Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System: This is an oversight committee looking at the cost of incarcerating the mentally ill.