

Sue Schafer  
State Representative  
House District 24



*What's Your Opinion?  
Contact Sue!*

State Capitol  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 866-5522  
sue.schafer.house@state.co.us  
www.sueschafer.com

## **Legislative Update February 27, 2010**

### **Important Bills Passed By the House**

**HB 1008: Gender Equality: by Rep. Schafer and Sen. Carroll:** Makes sure women and men receive equal treatment when purchasing individual health insurance. Under current “gender rating”, women are singled out in individual plans to pay much higher premiums even without maternity coverage. The insurance industry shows no actuarial proof that women cost more so it’s past time for equal premiums for men and women.

**SB-01: Eliminate PERA’s Unfunded Liability: by Rep. Andy Kerr and Sen. Shaffer:** Modifies contributions to and benefits paid from the Public Employees’ Retirement Association for long-term solvency for public employees.

**HB 1001: Renewable Energy Standards by Rep. Tyler and Sen. Schwartz:** Creates incentives for installing renewable energy facilities in Colorado and requiring Xcel to generate 30% of its power from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 (solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass.).

### **Legislation of Interest**

- **HB 1208: Higher Education Statewide Transfer Agreements by Rep. Todd and Sen. Shaffer:** Makes it easier for undergraduate students to transition between two-year and four-year colleges and to enroll with junior status into a four-year public college or university.
- **SB 58: Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program by Rep. Gagliardi and Sen. Tapia:** Improves the existing College Invest nurse loan forgiveness program by extending its eligibility requirements to increase training for nursing teachers and new nursing students.
- **HB 1273: Arts Education for Workforce Development by Rep. Merrifield and Sen. Spence:** Makes visual and performing arts programs eligible for school funding in career and technical education categories.

NOTE: All bills can be read in full and tracked at [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)  
Click on “House” or “Senate” and follow the link to the bills by bill number.

- **HB 1188: Public Rafting Navigation Rights by Rep. Curry and Sen. Hodge:** Allows commercial rafting companies to continue their business while respecting the rights of property owners on the banks of the rivers.
- **HB: 1191: State Soda and Candy Tax Exemption:** Because we are coming out of a serious recession, our state must cut programs and generate revenue. As one step toward generating revenue, 13 bills will end some tax exemptions and save millions of dollars. For example, the 2.9% sales-tax exemption on soda and candy is one of these. Instead of cutting funding to education, healthcare, and human services, we will generate \$4 million by adding 3cents on a can of pop or candy bar which are non-essential food items.

#### **Sue's Bills Update:**

#### **HB 1274: Out-of-Home Juvenile Transition Back to Public Schools by Rep. Schafer and Sen.**

**Johnston:** Allows schools to receive information about juveniles in out-of-home placement (e.g.: residential treatment, youth corrections) who are transitioning back into a public school. This bill aims to ensure a successful transition of the juvenile and, at the same time, ensure the safety of the public school.

**HB 1336: School Safety Expenditures by Rep. Schafer and Sen. Newell:** Authorizes the division of criminal justice to expend moneys to strengthen the Colorado School Safety Center.

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