

## HB21-1107: PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT WORKERS

Concerning protections for certain public health workers.

### Details

<b>Bill Sponsors:</b>	House – Caraveo (D) and Carver (R) Senate – Bridges (D) and Lundeen (R)
<b>Committees:</b>	House Judiciary Senate Judiciary
<b>Bill History:</b>	2/16/2021- Introduced in House 3/2/2021- House Judiciary Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole 3/8/2021- House Second Reading Passed 3/9/2021- House Third Reading Passed 3/10/2021- Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Judiciary
<b>Next Action:</b>	Hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee
<b>Fiscal Note:</b>	<u>2/25/2021</u>

### Bill Summary

Under current law, it unlawful to publish the personal information of a law enforcement official, human services worker, and their families, if the publishing of the personal information would pose an imminent and serious threat to their safety. This bill extends the protection of personal information on the internet to public health workers, including employees, contractors or employees of contractors of the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) or local public health agencies. In addition, a protected person (human services and public health workers) can submit a written request to a state or local government official to remove their personal information from public records that are available on the internet. A violation is a class 1 misdemeanor.

### Issue Summary

Under-resourced county and state public health infrastructure has left public health workers in a position that has made it difficult manage the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, which has been coupled with a sense of public distrust when public health workers and leaders tried to convey the science behind public health orders. Between March 2020 and January 2021, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health identified through public reports 190 departures (resignation, retirement, or

Reported Harassment and Threats of Public Health Officials  
March 2020 - January 2021



firing) of state and local public health leaders, though that number is likely higher.<sup>1</sup> The map details where those departures have occurred (grey dots) and where publicly documented threats and harassment of public health workers have occurred (red dots).

### Supporters

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- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
- Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO)
- Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Community Health Network
- Colorado Counties Incorporated
- Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
- Colorado Dental Association
- Colorado Hospital Association
- Colorado Immunization Advocates
- Colorado Medical Society
- Colorado Municipal League
- Colorado Psychiatric Society
- Colorado Wins
- Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT)
- County Sheriffs of Colorado
- Denver Health and Hospital Authority
- Healthier Colorado
- Immunize Colorado

### Opponents

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- No opposition has not been made public at this time.

### About this Brief

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This brief was prepared by Health District of Northern Larimer County staff to assist the Health District Board of Directors in determining whether to take an official stand on various health-related issues. The Health District is a special district of the northern two-thirds of Larimer County, Colorado, supported by local property tax dollars and governed by a publicly elected five-member board. The Health District provides medical, mental health, dental, preventive and health planning services to the communities it serves. This brief is not a complete analysis of this policy issue. This brief is accurate to staff knowledge as of date printed. For more information about this brief or the Health District, please contact Alyson Williams, Policy Coordinator, at (970) 224-5209, or e-mail at [awilliams@healthdistrict.org](mailto:awilliams@healthdistrict.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Feb 2021). *We Stand With Public Health*. <https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/news-and-events/events/2021/february-24.html>