

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**BILL 4**

LLS NO. 18-0260.01 Christy Chase x2008

**INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL**

**Opioid and Other Substance Use  
Disorders Interim Study Committee**

**BILL TOPIC: "Expand Access Behavioral Health Care Providers"**  
**DEADLINES: File by: 10/10/2017**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE**  
102 **CORPS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
103 **PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT TO EXPAND THE**  
104 **AVAILABILITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN**  
105 **SHORTAGE AREAS IN THE STATE.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee.** The bill modifies the Colorado health service corps program

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

administered by the primary care office in the department of public health and environment as follows:

- For purposes of determining areas in the state in which there is a shortage of health care professionals and behavioral health care providers to meet the needs of the community, allows the primary care office, under guidance adopted by the state board of health, to develop and administer state health professional shortage areas using state-specific methodologies;
- Allows behavioral health care providers, which include licensed and certified addiction counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, clinical psychologists, advanced practice nurses, and physicians certified or trained in addiction medicine, pain management, or psychiatry, and candidates for licensure as an addiction counselor, professional counselor, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or psychologist, to participate in the loan repayment program on the condition of committing to provide behavioral health care services in health professional shortage areas for a specified period;
- Directs the advisory council to prioritize loan repayment and scholarships for those behavioral health care providers, candidates for licensure, or addiction counselors who provide behavioral health care services in nonprofit or public employer settings but permits consideration of applicants practicing in a private setting that serves underserved populations;
- Establishes a scholarship program to help defray the education and training costs associated with obtaining certification as an addiction counselor or with progressing to a higher level of certification;
- Adds 2 members to the advisory council that reviews program applications, which members include a representative of an organization representing substance use disorder treatment providers and a licensed or certified addiction counselor who has experience in rural health, safety net clinics, or health equity;
- Modifies program reporting requirements and requires annual reporting that coincides with required SMART Act reporting by the department; and
- Requires the general assembly to annually appropriate \$2.5 million from the marijuana tax cash fund to the primary care office to provide loan repayment for behavioral health

care providers and candidates for licensure participating in the Colorado health service corps and to award scholarships to addiction counselors participating in the scholarship program.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and determines that:

4 (a) Colorado faces a health care workforce shortage in many  
5 health care areas, including a shortage in behavioral health care providers  
6 who work with patients with mental health and substance use disorders;

7 (b) With an opioid epidemic and increasing overdose rates  
8 affecting all corners of the state, the need for health professionals who  
9 can treat patients with substance use disorders is particularly acute;

10 (c) Additionally, providers who seek to hire mental health and  
11 substance use disorder professionals report difficulty in filling positions,  
12 leading to reduced services despite having the physical space for beds or  
13 outpatient treatment rooms;

14 (d) The state currently operates a loan repayment program, known  
15 as the Colorado health service corps, that targets the need for primary care  
16 services in health professional shortage areas throughout the state by  
17 providing loan repayment to a health care professional who commits to  
18 practicing and providing primary care in a shortage area for a minimum  
19 period;

20 (e) The Colorado health service corps program, in its current  
21 form, is limited to specific providers providing primary or psychiatric  
22 care in areas of the state designated as health professional shortage areas  
23 under federal guidelines;

1 (f) Further, the existing loan repayment program is available only  
2 to providers who have already obtained a license, which can require at  
3 least one to two years of supervised practice, depending on the license  
4 type, after completion of a master's or doctorate degree, yet the need for  
5 assistance with repaying student loans is often greatest during this  
6 supervised practice period since salary earnings are lower;

7 (g) While the current program requirements are well suited for  
8 providing greater access to primary and psychiatric care, they do not  
9 address the increasing demand for behavioral health care services to treat  
10 other mental health or substance use disorders and the financial burdens  
11 faced by candidates for licensure who are progressing to licensure but are  
12 not eligible for loan repayment and are often working at an entry-level  
13 salary;

14 (h) Moreover, the federal guidelines for determining a health  
15 professional shortage area do not adequately measure the shortage of  
16 other mental health or substance use disorder professionals in areas of the  
17 state experiencing an increased need for behavioral health care services;

18 (i) In order to expand access to behavioral health care providers  
19 and behavioral health care services in areas of the state where the need for  
20 behavioral health care is great and the access to care is limited, it is  
21 important to:

22 (I) Allow behavioral health care providers and candidates for  
23 licensure as a behavioral health care provider to participate in the loan  
24 repayment program through the Colorado health service corps to provide  
25 incentives to those providers and candidates to deliver behavioral health  
26 care services in health professional shortage areas in the state and to ease  
27 the financial burdens they face when practicing in health professional

1 shortage areas;

2 (II) Establish a scholarship program to provide financial  
3 assistance to addiction counselors seeking initial or a higher level of  
4 certification to defray education and training costs in exchange for a  
5 commitment to provide behavioral health care services in health  
6 professional shortage areas;

7 (III) Allow the primary care office, under guidelines adopted by  
8 the state board of health, to designate health professional shortage areas  
9 in the state using state-specific guidelines rather than federal guidelines;

10 (IV) Add representatives of substance use disorder service  
11 providers to the advisory council that reviews and makes  
12 recommendations on loan repayment applications; and

13 (V) Dedicate an amount of money from the marijuana tax cash  
14 fund to provide loan repayment to behavioral health care providers and  
15 candidates for licensure and scholarships to addiction counselors in order  
16 to expand access to behavioral health care services to individuals  
17 suffering from a mental health or substance use disorder.

18 (2) The general assembly further finds that expanding access to  
19 the health care professional loan repayment program to behavioral health  
20 care providers will expand access to behavioral health care services and  
21 treatment for people with mental health or substance use disorders, and  
22 therefore, the use of retail marijuana tax revenues to fund loan  
23 repayments for behavioral health care providers under the Colorado  
24 health service corps program is authorized under section 39-28.8-501  
25 (2)(b)(IV)(C).

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-402, **add** (11)  
27 as follows:

1           **25-1.5-402. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context  
2 otherwise requires:

3           (11) "STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
4 AREA" MEANS AN AREA OF THE STATE DESIGNATED BY THE PRIMARY CARE  
5 OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE-SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES  
6 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD BY RULE PURSUANT TO SECTION  
7 25-1.5-404 (1)(a), AS EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH CARE  
8 PROFESSIONALS OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

9           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-404, **amend**  
10 (1)(a) as follows:

11           **25-1.5-404. Primary care office - powers and duties - rules.**

12 (1) The primary care office has, at a minimum, the following powers and  
13 duties:

14           (a) To assess the health care professional needs of areas  
15 throughout the state AND CREATE AND ADMINISTER STATE-DESIGNATED  
16 HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE  
17 BOARD RULES ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a) ESTABLISHING  
18 STATE-SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES FOR DESIGNATING AREAS EXPERIENCING  
19 A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
20 CARE PROVIDERS;

21           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-1.5-501  
22 as follows:

23           **25-1.5-501. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
24 hereby finds that there are areas of Colorado that suffer from a lack of  
25 health care professionals OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS to  
26 serve, and a lack of nursing or other health care professional faculty to  
27 train health care professionals to meet, the medical AND BEHAVIORAL

1 HEALTH CARE needs of communities. The general assembly further finds  
2 that the state needs to implement incentives to encourage health care  
3 professionals AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS to practice in  
4 these underserved areas and to encourage nursing faculty and other health  
5 care professional faculty to teach ~~these~~ health care professionals.

6 (2) It is therefore the intent of the general assembly in enacting  
7 this part 5 to create a state health service corps program that uses state  
8 ~~moneys~~ MONEY, federal ~~moneys~~ MONEY, when permissible, and  
9 contributions from communities and private sources to help repay the  
10 outstanding education loans that many health care professionals,  
11 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE,  
12 nursing faculty, and health care professional faculty hold. In exchange for  
13 repayment of loans incurred for the purpose of obtaining education in  
14 their chosen health care AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE professions, the  
15 health care professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, AND  
16 CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE will commit to provide health care OR  
17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE services, AS APPLICABLE, in communities with  
18 underserved health care OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE needs throughout  
19 the state, and the nursing and health care professional faculty will commit  
20 to providing a specified period of service in a qualified faculty position.

21 (3) IN ADDITION, FOR PURPOSES OF INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY  
22 OF CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELORS, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY TO CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
24 SCHOLARSHIPS TO ADDICTION COUNSELORS WHO, IN EXCHANGE FOR  
25 RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS TO ASSIST THEM IN OBTAINING THE REQUIRED  
26 EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO BE CERTIFIED AS AN ADDICTION  
27 COUNSELOR, COMMIT TO PRACTICE IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE

1 AREA FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

2 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-502, **add**  
3 (1.3), (1.5), (1.7), (6.5), (12), (13), and (14) as follows:

4 **25-1.5-502. Definitions.** As used in this part 5, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (1.3) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER" MEANS THE  
7 FOLLOWING PROVIDERS WHO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
8 SERVICES WITHIN THEIR SCOPE OF PRACTICE:

- 9 (a) A LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR;  
10 (b) A CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELOR;  
11 (c) A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR;  
12 (d) A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER;  
13 (e) A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST;  
14 (f) A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST;  
15 (g) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH SPECIFIC TRAINING IN  
16 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, PAIN MANAGEMENT, OR PSYCHIATRIC  
17 NURSING; OR

18 (h) A PHYSICIAN WITH SPECIFIC BOARD CERTIFICATION OR  
19 TRAINING IN ADDICTION MEDICINE, PAIN MANAGEMENT, OR PSYCHIATRY.

20 (1.5) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES" MEANS SERVICES FOR  
21 THE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF, AND THE RECOVERY  
22 FROM, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

23 (1.7) "CANDIDATE FOR LICENSURE" MEANS A PERSON WHO:

24 (a) IS A CANDIDATE FOR A LICENSE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST,  
25 ADDICTION COUNSELOR, LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR, MARRIAGE  
26 AND FAMILY THERAPIST, OR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER;

27 (b) HAS COMPLETED A MASTER'S DEGREE OR, FOR A PSYCHOLOGIST



1 LICENSURE CANDIDATE, HAS COMPLETED A DOCTORAL DEGREE;

2 (c) HAS NOT YET COMPLETED THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE HOURS  
3 REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE; AND

4 (d) IS OR WILL BE PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
5 SERVICES.

6 (6.5) "HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A  
7 FEDERALLY DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA OR A  
8 STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.

9 (12) "SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" MEANS THE SCHOLARSHIP  
10 PROGRAM FOR ADDICTION COUNSELORS CREATED IN SECTION  
11 25-1.5-503.5.

12 (13) "STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
13 AREA" MEANS AN AREA OF THE STATE DESIGNATED BY THE PRIMARY CARE  
14 OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE-SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES  
15 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD BY RULE PURSUANT TO SECTION  
16 25-1.5-404 (1)(a), AS EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH CARE  
17 PROFESSIONALS OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

18 (14) "UNDERSERVED POPULATION" MEANS ANY OF THE  
19 FOLLOWING:

20 (a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER  
21 ARTICLES 4 TO 6 OF TITLE 25.5;

22 (b) INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PROVIDED SERVICES BY A BEHAVIORAL  
23 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND ARE EITHER CHARGED FEES ON A SLIDING  
24 SCALE BASED UPON INCOME OR ARE SERVED WITHOUT CHARGE.

25 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-503, **amend**  
26 (1), (2), (5), and (6) as follows:

27 **25-1.5-503. Colorado health service corps - program - creation**

1    **- conditions - rules.** (1) (a) (I) ~~Beginning July 1, 2009,~~ The primary care  
2    office shall maintain and administer, subject to available appropriations,  
3    the Colorado health service corps. Subject to available appropriations, the  
4    Colorado health service corps shall provide loan repayment for certain  
5    eligible:

6           (A) Health care professionals who provide primary health  
7    services; ~~Beginning July 1, 2011, the Colorado health service corps shall~~  
8    ~~also provide loan repayment for certain eligible~~

9           (B) Nursing faculty or health care professional faculty members  
10   in qualified faculty positions; AND

11          (C) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND CANDIDATES FOR  
12   LICENSURE WHO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

13          (II) Under the Colorado health service corps, subject to the  
14   limitations specified in subsection (2) of this section, upon entering into  
15   a loan contract the state may either:

16           (A) Make payments on the education loans of the health care  
17   professional, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, CANDIDATE FOR  
18   LICENSURE, nursing faculty member, or health care professional faculty  
19   member; or

20           (B) Agree to make an advance payment in a lump sum of all or  
21   part of the principal, interest, and related expenses of the education loans  
22   of health care professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS,  
23   CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE, nursing faculty members, or health care  
24   professional faculty members, subject to the limitations specified in  
25   subsection (2) of this section.

26           (III) (A) In consideration for receiving repayment of all or part of  
27   his or her education loan, the health care professional shall agree to

1 provide primary health services in ~~federally designated~~ health  
2 professional shortage areas in Colorado.

3 (B) IN CONSIDERATION FOR RECEIVING REPAYMENT OF ALL OR  
4 PART OF HIS OR HER EDUCATION LOAN, THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
5 PROVIDER OR CANDIDATE FOR LICENSURE SHALL AGREE TO PROVIDE  
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
7 AREAS IN COLORADO.

8 (IV) In consideration for receiving repayment of all or part of his  
9 or her education loan, the nursing or other health care professional faculty  
10 member must agree to serve two or more consecutive academic years in  
11 a qualified faculty position.

12 (b) Repayment of loans under the Colorado health service corps  
13 may be made using ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the Colorado health service corps  
14 fund. The primary care office is authorized to receive and expend gifts,  
15 grants, and donations or ~~moneys~~ MONEY appropriated by the general  
16 assembly for the purpose of implementing the Colorado health service  
17 corps. In administering the Colorado health service corps, the primary  
18 care office shall collaborate with appropriate partners as needed to  
19 maximize the federal ~~moneys~~ MONEY available to the state for state loan  
20 repayment programs through the federal department of health and human  
21 services. The selection of health care professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
22 CARE PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE, nursing faculty members,  
23 and health care professional faculty members for participation in the  
24 Colorado health service corps is exempt from the competitive bidding  
25 requirements of the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24.  
26 ~~C.R.S.~~

27 (c) THE FOLLOWING PROVIDERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LOAN

1 REPAYMENT THROUGH THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS:

2 (c) (I) Health care professionals WHO ARE NOT practicing in  
3 ~~nonprimary~~ PRIMARY care specialties or providing ~~nonprimary~~ PRIMARY  
4 health services; ~~are not eligible for loan repayments through the Colorado~~  
5 ~~health service corps~~ AND

6 (II) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND CANDIDATES FOR  
7 LICENSURE WHO ARE NOT PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
8 SERVICES.

9 (d) (I) As a condition of receiving a loan repayment through the  
10 Colorado health service corps, a health care professional OR BEHAVIORAL  
11 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER must enter into a contract pursuant to which the  
12 health care professional OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER agrees  
13 to practice for at least two years in a community that is located in a  
14 ~~federally designated~~ health professional shortage area. The health care  
15 professional OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, AS APPLICABLE, the  
16 primary care office, and the community employer with which the health  
17 care professional OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER is practicing  
18 must be parties to the contract.

19 (II) As a condition of receiving a loan repayment through the  
20 Colorado health service corps, a nursing faculty or health care  
21 professional faculty member must enter into a contract pursuant to which  
22 he or she agrees to serve at least two consecutive academic years or their  
23 equivalent in a qualified faculty position. The nursing faculty or health  
24 care professional faculty member, the primary care office, and the  
25 educational institution where the qualified faculty position is located must  
26 be parties to the contract.

27 (III) AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING A LOAN REPAYMENT THROUGH

1 THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, A CANDIDATE FOR LICENSURE  
2 MUST ENTER INTO A CONTRACT PURSUANT TO WHICH THE CANDIDATE FOR  
3 LICENSURE AGREES TO PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AFTER  
4 OBTAINING THE LICENSE, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF TIME  
5 EQUIVALENT TO THE TIME SPENT OBTAINING THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE  
6 HOURS REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM,  
7 IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS LOCATED IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
8 AREA. THE CANDIDATE FOR LICENSURE, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE, AND  
9 THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYER WITH WHICH THE CANDIDATE FOR LICENSURE  
10 IS PRACTICING MUST BE PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT.

11 (2) Subject to available appropriations, the primary care office  
12 shall annually select health care professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
13 PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE, nursing faculty members, and  
14 health care professional members from the list provided by the advisory  
15 council pursuant to ~~section 25-1.5-504 (6)~~ SECTION 25-1.5-504 (5)(a) to  
16 participate in the Colorado health service corps.

17 (5) (a) A health care professional participating in the Colorado  
18 health service corps shall not practice with a for-profit private group or  
19 solo practice or at a proprietary hospital or clinic.

20 (b) FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR CANDIDATE  
21 FOR LICENSURE APPLYING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO HEALTH  
22 SERVICE CORPS, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL PRIORITIZE BEHAVIORAL  
23 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE WHO ARE  
24 PRACTICING WITH A NONPROFIT OR PUBLIC EMPLOYER. THE ADVISORY  
25 COUNCIL MAY ALSO CONSIDER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COLORADO  
26 HEALTH SERVICE CORPS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND  
27 CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE WHO ARE PRACTICING WITH A FOR-PROFIT

1 EMPLOYER, SUCH AS A PRIVATE PRACTICE OR OTHER SITE, THAT PROVIDES  
2 SERVICES TO AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION.

3 (6) A contract for loan repayment entered into pursuant to this part  
4 5 must not include terms that are more favorable to health care  
5 professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, OR CANDIDATES  
6 FOR LICENSURE than the most favorable terms that the secretary of the  
7 federal department of health and human services is authorized to grant  
8 under the national health services corps program. In addition, each  
9 contract must include penalties for breach of contract that are at least as  
10 stringent as those available to the secretary of the federal department of  
11 health and human services. In the event of a breach of contract for a loan  
12 repayment entered into pursuant to this part 5, the primary care office  
13 shall enforce the contract and collect any damages or other penalties  
14 owed.

15 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1.5-503.5 as  
16 follows:

17 **25-1.5-503.5. Scholarship program for addiction counselors -**  
18 **creation - eligibility - conditions - rules.** (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2018-19  
19 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE SHALL MAINTAIN AND  
20 ADMINISTER A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN INCREASING THE  
21 POPULATION OF CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELORS PROVIDING  
22 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
23 AREAS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE PRIMARY CARE  
24 OFFICE SHALL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP DEFRAY THE EDUCATION  
25 AND TRAINING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OBTAINING CERTIFICATION AS AN  
26 ADDICTION COUNSELOR OR WITH PROGRESSING TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF  
27 CERTIFICATION FOR APPLICANTS WHO AGREE TO PRACTICE IN A HEALTH

1 PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

2 (2) UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO THE  
3 LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION, UPON ENTERING INTO A  
4 SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACT, THE STATE MAY PAY UP TO THE FULL COST OF  
5 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND DIRECT EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH  
6 EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION AS AN  
7 ADDICTION COUNSELOR OR FOR PROGRESSING TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF  
8 ADDICTION COUNSELOR CERTIFICATION, WHICH AMOUNT SHALL BE PAID TO  
9 THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION OR STATE-APPROVED TRAINER WHERE THE  
10 ADDICTION COUNSELOR STUDENT IS ENROLLED OR PARTICIPATING.

11 (3) AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO  
12 ASSIST WITH OBTAINING CERTIFICATION OR A HIGHER LEVEL OF  
13 CERTIFICATION, AN APPLICANT MUST ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE  
14 PRIMARY CARE OFFICE PURSUANT TO WHICH HE OR SHE AGREES TO SERVE  
15 AT LEAST SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS LOCATED  
16 IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.

17 (4) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE PRIMARY CARE  
18 OFFICE SHALL ANNUALLY SELECT APPLICANTS FROM THE LIST PROVIDED  
19 BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-504 (5)(b) FOR  
20 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS UNDER THIS SECTION.

21 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF RECOMMENDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, THE  
22 ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL PRIORITIZE ADDICTION COUNSELORS WHO ARE  
23 PRACTICING WITH A NONPROFIT OR PUBLIC EMPLOYER. THE ADVISORY  
24 COUNCIL MAY ALSO CONSIDER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOLARSHIP  
25 PROGRAM ADDICTION COUNSELORS WHO ARE PRACTICING WITH A  
26 FOR-PROFIT EMPLOYER, SUCH AS A PRIVATE PRACTICE OR OTHER SITE,  
27 THAT PROVIDES SERVICES TO AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION.

1 (6) IN THE EVENT OF A BREACH OF CONTRACT FOR A SCHOLARSHIP  
2 ENTERED INTO UNDER THIS SECTION, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE SHALL  
3 ENFORCE THE CONTRACT AND COLLECT ANY DAMAGES OR OTHER  
4 PENALTIES OWED.

5 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-504, **amend**  
6 (1), (2) introductory portion, (2)(l), and (5); and **add** (2)(n) and (2)(o) as  
7 follows:

8 **25-1.5-504. Colorado health service corps advisory council -**  
9 **creation - membership - duties.** (1) There is hereby created in the  
10 primary care office the Colorado health service corps advisory council to  
11 review applications for participation in the Colorado health service corps  
12 AND FOR SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER SECTION 25-1.5-503.5 and TO make  
13 recommendations to the primary care office pursuant to section  
14 25-1.5-503 (2) AND 25-1.5-503.5 (4).

15 (2) The advisory council consists of ~~thirteen~~ FIFTEEN members  
16 appointed by the governor as provided in this subsection (2). In  
17 appointing members of the advisory council, the governor shall ensure  
18 that the advisory council includes at least one representative from each of  
19 the following organizations:

20 (l) A physician who is a faculty member of a medical school in  
21 Colorado; ~~and~~

22 (n) A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SUBSTANCE USE  
23 DISORDER SERVICE PROVIDERS; AND

24 (o) A LICENSED OR CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELOR WHO HAS  
25 EXPERIENCE IN RURAL HEALTH, SAFETY NET CLINICS, OR HEALTH EQUITY.

26 (5) (a) The advisory council shall review applications received  
27 from health care professionals, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS,



1 CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE, nursing faculty members, and health care  
2 professional faculty members to participate in the Colorado health service  
3 corps. Subject to available appropriations and federal requirements  
4 concerning eligibility for federal loan repayment matching funds, the  
5 advisory council shall annually select health care professionals,  
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE,  
7 nursing faculty members, and health care professional faculty members  
8 to participate in the Colorado health service corps and shall forward its  
9 list of selected participants to the primary care office.

10 (b) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS  
11 RECEIVED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. SUBJECT TO  
12 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL ANNUALLY  
13 SELECT ADDICTION COUNSELORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOLARSHIP  
14 PROGRAM AND SHALL FORWARD ITS LIST OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS TO  
15 THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE.

16 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 25-1.5-505**  
17 as follows:

18 **25-1.5-505. Advisory council - report.** (1) On or before  
19 December 1, 2011, and on or before December 1 every two years  
20 thereafter, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM the  
21 advisory council, shall submit to the governor, the health and human  
22 services committee of the senate, ~~and~~ the COMMITTEES ON health,  
23 INSURANCE, and environment ~~committee~~ AND ON PUBLIC HEALTH CARE  
24 AND HUMAN SERVICES of the house of representatives, or any successor  
25 committees, a report that includes, at a minimum, the following  
26 information:

27 (a) ~~Identification and a summary of successful loan forgiveness~~

1 ~~programs for health care professionals and best practices in health care~~  
2 ~~professional loan forgiveness programs across the country~~ A DESCRIPTION  
3 OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
4 PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE, NURSING FACULTY MEMBERS,  
5 AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL FACULTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN  
6 THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM AND THE SCHOLARSHIP  
7 PROGRAM;

8 (b) A description of the programmatic goals of the Colorado  
9 health service corps AND THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, including the  
10 present status of and any barriers to meeting those goals;

11 (c) Existing efforts and potential future projects to overcome any  
12 barriers to meeting the programmatic goals of the Colorado health service  
13 corps AND THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;

14 (d) An analysis of the ~~impact~~ EFFECTS of the Colorado health  
15 service corps program AND THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ON ADDRESSING  
16 THE HEALTH CARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF  
17 COMMUNITIES IN COLORADO;

18 (e) ~~If applicable, results of any surveys conducted of state health~~  
19 ~~professional incentive programs in primary care and any~~  
20 ~~recommendations to individually enhance, improve coordination among,~~  
21 ~~and potentially consolidate existing or potential programs to better~~  
22 ~~address Colorado's primary care workforce issues~~ A SUMMARY OF ANY  
23 ASSESSMENT OR EVALUATION OF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE CONDUCTED  
24 DURING THE YEAR; and

25 (f) ~~The number of~~ A DESCRIPTION OF THE nursing faculty or other  
26 health care professional faculty members ~~who receive moneys from~~  
27 PARTICIPATING IN the Colorado health service corps and the ~~number of~~

1 educational institutions where the ~~recipients~~ PARTICIPANTS teach.

2 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
3 SHALL INCLUDE THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION AS PART OF ITS  
4 "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND  
5 TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY  
6 SECTION 2-7-203.

7 (3) THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT IN THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT  
8 TO SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I).

9 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-1.5-506  
10 as follows:

11 **25-1.5-506. Colorado health service corps fund - created -**  
12 **acceptance of grants and donations - annual appropriation from**

13 **marijuana tax cash fund.** (1) The Colorado health service corps fund  
14 is hereby created in the state treasury, which fund consists of:

15 (a) All general fund ~~moneys~~ MONEY appropriated by the general  
16 assembly for the Colorado health service corps, the first five hundred  
17 thousand dollars of which shall be used solely for loan repayments for  
18 nursing faculty;

19 (b) Damages and penalties collected from breach of contract  
20 actions for loan repayment contracts; and

21 (c) For the 2016-17 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter,  
22 tobacco litigation settlement ~~moneys~~ MONEY transferred to the fund by the  
23 state treasurer pursuant to section 24-75-1104.5 (1.7)(n). ~~C.R.S.~~

24 (2) (a) The ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund, other than the ~~moneys~~  
25 MONEY described in ~~paragraph (c) of subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(c) of  
26 this section, ~~are~~ IS hereby continuously appropriated to the primary care  
27 office for the Colorado health service corps. Any ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the

1 fund not expended for the purpose of this part 5 may be invested by the  
2 state treasurer as provided by law. All interest and income derived from  
3 the investment and deposit of ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund shall be credited  
4 to the fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered ~~moneys~~ MONEY  
5 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year ~~remain~~ REMAINS in the  
6 fund and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or another  
7 fund.

8 (b) The ~~moneys~~ MONEY described in ~~paragraph (c) of subsection~~  
9 ~~(†) SUBSECTION (1)(c) of this section are~~ IS subject to annual  
10 appropriation by the general assembly to the primary care office for the  
11 Colorado health service corps.

12 (3) The primary care office is authorized to receive contributions,  
13 grants, and services from public and private sources, AND TO EXPEND  
14 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS, to carry out the  
15 purposes of this part 5.

16 (4) (a) FOR THE 2018-19 FISCAL YEAR AND EACH FISCAL YEAR  
17 THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWO MILLION  
18 FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE MARIJUANA TAX CASH  
19 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 39-28.8-501 TO THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE TO:

20 (I) PROVIDE LOAN REPAYMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE  
21 PROVIDERS AND CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE PARTICIPATING IN THE  
22 COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; AND

23 (II) AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO ADDICTION COUNSELORS  
24 PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

25 (b) SINCE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, CANDIDATES  
26 FOR LICENSURE, AND ADDICTION COUNSELORS PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL  
27 HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND TREATMENT TO PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE USE

1 OR MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, USE OF MONEY IN THE MARIJUANA TAX  
2 CASH FUND IS PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 39-28.8-501 (2)(b)(IV)(C).

3 **SECTION 11. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

4 **SECTION 12. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.