



Income Assistance

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The League of Women Voters of Colorado supported SB20-200 which passed in the 2020 Legislative Session and set up a required retirement program for Colorado's Private Sector Workers whose employers are not currently offering their employees a retirement savings plan. Our support is based on League positions which support help to achieve income independence and promote economic justice. Over half of Colorado workers in the private sector lack an employer-sponsored retirement program, and adequate individual savings. Without retirement assets, our aging population will suffer and could potentially cost the State of Colorado ten billion dollars within the next fifteen years. The lack of savings affects the most vulnerable of our population the most severely, a shortfall made so much worse by COVID.

The Colorado Secure Savings Board of eight members appointed by Governor Polis has now been meeting as an implementation board with State Treasurer Dave Young as its chair. The Board plans to have the program up and running by November of this year. After reviewing plans offered by Illinois, California and Oregon, the Board has begun the process of hiring a program administrator and consultants. Private sector employers with no retirement plan who have more than five employees are **required** to enroll their employees in this program once it is up and running. The contribution to the Roth IRA retirement plan will be automatically be deducted from the employee's paycheck unless the employee opts out. Employers who have less than six employees can choose to opt into the program. Rollout of the program will occur in waves so as to allow the program administrators time to make adjustments as needed. The program intends to include education on savings for retirement. The LAC will watch for any additional legislation regarding the setup of the Colorado Secure Savings Board. The Board anticipates it may need to ask that it be given fiduciary responsibility that was not included in SB20-200. We will also watch for any future legislation encouraging regular savings. Such legislation as proposed did not have traction in 2020.