



Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver

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NEWS RELEASE

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SENATOR ISGAR CONTINUES FIGHT FOR SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Isgar proposes two amendments to budget bill for Southwestern Colorado mental health and higher education

DENVER—Today, the Senate Democrats met in caucus to discuss the House amendments to Senate Bill 209, which is the budget bill, also known as the “Long Bill”.

Last week, **Senator Jim Isgar (D-Hesperus)** passed an amendment, which increased funding for Mental Health services in Southwest Colorado. Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee voted to overturn the amendment.

“I have repropoed my amendment, that House appropriations reversed, because this is such a huge need for Southwest Colorado that we cannot continue to ignore,” said Senator Isgar.

Today, **Senator Jim Isgar (D-Hesperus)** passed an amendment, which adds language to the proposed legislative budget bill for the upcoming fiscal year, to increase funding for Mental Health services in Southwest Colorado.

“This is addressing a very big need in Southwest Colorado and is a serious topic for our area,” said Senator Isgar. “This is something that the legislature needs to be more concerned about.”

Amendment 9 to Senate Bill 209, the “Long Bill”, increases funding by \$136,471 for the Department of Human Services, Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Abuse for the “Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center Crossroads Project.”

“Currently in Southwest Colorado, if you are under ‘acute inpatient psychiatric stabilization’ you must be transported in a patrol car in handcuffs and shackles up to six hours to a facility in Pueblo that can handle you,” said Senator Isgar. “We have worked to create a facility in Southwest Colorado for the last two years, but we are short of on-going funding. This will relieve pressure on facilities in Pueblo and Ft. Logan that must support Southwest Colorado. This measure adds needed beds for those with Mental Health needs and benefits everyone.”

The amendment passed on reconsideration on a vote of 18 to 17.

ISGAR ADDS FUNDING FOR SOUTHWEST COLORADO MENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS

Amendment 9 by Senator Isgar increases funding for Mental Health services

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