

Governor John Hickenlooper State of the State Address

January 12, 2012

As Governor Hickenlooper entered the room and began his State of the State Address, the room was full of positive energy and full of hope for a cooperative session without bipartisan animosity. Colorado is the place where things get done and the focus of 2012 will be centered on encouraging entrepreneurship efforts and improving education for all. The recession has created a difficult playing field for all. We are now faced with a growing demand for government services and an increase in enrollment for Medicaid services. To ensure that we can continue to provide these services, as well as quality services, the solution is to improve Colorado's job market in every sector. Jobs are the key to decreasing homelessness, improving a person's health, and ensuring that quality education is available for all. Governor Hickenlooper urged everyone to disregard the belief that 2012 will be a hard legislative session because it is just not true. We have gotten a lot done, including passing the budget and the Colorado Health Care Exchange Act. Colorado has also attracted Fortune 500 Companies to open offices and create jobs in Colorado for Coloradans, such as Arrow Electronics who has moved their headquarters to Colorado. We need to do everything in our power to attract companies to Colorado as well as keep Colorado jobs in Colorado for Coloradan workers. We will continue to move forward in all areas and move forward in a way that is in the best interest of Colorado. Part of this will be moving away from excessive red tape and costly services and moving towards consolidating departments and services, developing the strategies to identify failing 3rd grade readers to prevent an illiterate future, strengthen the quality of services, and improve technology to better link Coloradans to the state and its services. TBD Colorado is Governor Hickenlooper's Civic Engagement Program that will spearhead the development of entrepreneurship in Colorado and invite Coloradans to present their issues and their ideas for solutions directly to the state. The 2012 legislative session is about striving to be the healthiest state and the most entrepreneurial state. These effort will undoubtedly lead us out these tough economic times, provide better education for our children, and provide more and better quality state services to those who need them most.

If you would like to read Governor Hickenlooper's full speech, you can access it via the web link below.

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