

Tom Jankovsky, Chair

District 1

Perry Will, Chair Pro Tem

District 2

Mike Samson

District 3



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable James Coleman
President, Colorado Senate
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Julie McCluskie
Speaker, Colorado House of Representatives
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Bipartisan Action Regarding Unfunded State Mandates

Dear Governor Polis, President Coleman, and Speaker McCluskie:

The Garfield County Board of County Commissioners joins many of our fellow Commissioners as members in the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) and around the State of Colorado to voice our shared concern: the increasing number of unfunded mandates imposed by the State on Colorado's counties.

These **unfunded mandates**, issued without the financial support required to implement them, place an unsustainable burden on local governments and the citizens we serve and undermining both fiscal responsibility and the principle of local control.

Colorado Revised Statutes § 29-1-304.5 plainly states that when the State increases the level of service required by law, it must also provide adequate funding. If it does not, such mandates are not binding - they are optional. As elected officials representing communities of diverse political perspectives, we are united in our commitment to uphold this statutory protection and exercise it with discretion.

These unfunded mandates require counties to dedicate staff time, upgrade systems, or implement new procedures—none of which come with state funding.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to reconsider the volume and scope of **unfunded mandates**. Additionally, we urge Governor Polis to exercise his veto power over unfunded mandates. We join our colleagues in asking for an open dialogue on solutions, including funding mechanisms or revisions to the statutory frameworks requiring compliance.

Counties continue to be indispensable partners in delivering essential services across Colorado. We invite you to join us in a candid conversation about the true cost of these mandates—and the path forward. Our offices are ready to coordinate a meeting at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Tom Jankovsky, Chairman

Mike Samson, Commissioner

Perry Will, Commissioner

cc Fred Jarman, County Manager
 Heather Beattie, County Attorney