



County Sheriffs of Colorado

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Executive Director: Chris Johnson

April 17, 2018

Colorado General Assembly
House Public Health Care & Human Services
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representatives:

The County Sheriffs of Colorado urge your support of HJR18-1012.

Under current federal law (Social Security Act Sec. 1905(a)(A)), Medicaid has an "inmate exclusion" which means that incarcerated individuals are **unable to access their federal Medicaid benefits** from the moment they are booked into jail, even if they are pretrial inmates that are presumed innocent. This exclusion has been in place since Medicaid's enactment in 1965.

The result is that inmates with Medicaid are terminated from participation when they enter the county jail. Once they are released, they are then eligible to re-apply which takes an inordinate amount of time. In custody inmates are only eligible for Medicaid if admitted to a hospital after twenty-four hours. Without Medicaid eligibility, counties are responsible for all costs of providing health care for inmates unless admitted to a hospital.

This resolution encourages Congress to change Medicaid eligibility to allow inmates who are not convicted and are presumed innocent to retain their Medicaid eligibility while they are still incarcerated.

For these reasons, the County Sheriffs of Colorado would ask for a vote of support on HJR18-1012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Johnson".

Sheriff Chris Johnson, (ret.)
Executive Director
County Sheriffs of Colorado