

HB 25B-0037: Health Providers Practice Scope Preventive Care

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Ricks

The issue:

H.R. 1, the GOP megabill, aims to cut billions of dollars from Medicaid while also changing the work requirements and other conditions for enrollment in the health coverage plan. Colorado officials estimate that these changes would cause roughly 110,000 Coloradans to lose insurance through Connect for Health Colorado. On top of that, another 377,000 people are projected to lose their Medicaid benefits.

These cuts and policy changes would leave hundreds of thousands of Coloradans without access to affordable health insurance, putting essential medical services out of reach for many families.

What does HB 25B-0037 do?

HB 25B-0037 authorizes certain healthcare providers – including licensed pharmacists, dental hygienists, and registered nurses – to provide low-level preventive healthcare services that fall within the scope of their existing practice and training.

These services may include:

- Providing federally-approved vaccines
- Performing routine health screenings, such as blood pressure measurements, cholesterol checks, and diabetes-risk assessments
- Administering patient education and counseling pertaining to preventive healthcare measures

Under the bill, providers will administer preventive healthcare services to all patients, but its **main goal is to make these services more easily available to low-income individuals and Medicaid recipients.**

Importantly, the bill does **not widen a provider's scope of practice** beyond what is allowed under existing licensure laws. In other words, providers **may only** perform services that their current licenses allow. This measure ensures that **only**

qualified, authorized providers will perform these services. Additionally, medical providers are not required to obtain new licensure under this bill.

Starting in FY 2026-27, the legislature will **not** give funds to the Department of Regulatory Agencies for the purposes of this bill. The department will need to provide guidance and outreach to health care providers, but the workload will be minimal and can be accomplished using its existing resources. Additionally, the anticipated fiscal impacts on state insurance companies are minimal, as preventive services may already be included in a provider's existing scope of practice.

Why this matters:

The changes and cuts to Medicaid will punish low-income and uninsured individuals, stripping away critical coverage and care. Additionally, unaffordable health insurance will create higher premiums for insured individuals, meaning H.R. 1 will not only harm low-income and uninsured Coloradans, it will harm everyone. Without proactive state measures like HB 25B-0037, Colorado lacks a strong safeguard to ensure everyone has fair and equitable access to healthcare.