



March 12th, 2024

Re: SB24-093 Continuity of Health-Care Coverage Change

Position: Support

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Connect for Health Colorado is Colorado's official health insurance marketplace. Since we opened for business in 2013, we've been driven by our mission to increase access, affordability, and choice for individuals, families, and small employers purchasing health insurance in Colorado. Our Board of Directors supports SB24-093. This bill will help Coloradans no longer eligible for Medicaid with serious medical conditions better make the transition to individual market coverage as well as increase access to coverage of necessary medical treatments during coverage transitions.

As you are likely aware, the end of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency last summer also brought back Medicaid eligibility determinations that result in people losing coverage. This is also known as the "Medicaid unwind". Connect for Health Colorado continues to work closely with the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing and other key stakeholders to ensure that Coloradans no longer eligible for Medicaid and who need health insurance make the transition to Connect for Health Colorado coverage when appropriate.

To spread the word, we have been reaching out to families no longer eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ with letters, emails, phone calls, and over 60 outreach events across the state so far. We also increased funding to our Assistance Network, which is our statewide network of free, expert enrollment assistance who can help both with Medicaid and Connect for Health Colorado coverage. These Assisters have recounted the concerns from people coming off Medicaid coverage: they are worried that they may need to stop an important medical treatment because the place where they are receiving care or the prescription they are taking is not in-network with their new health plan. This bill will ensure that Coloradans can continue treatment for their serious medical condition without fear of out-of-network balance billing as well as ease the transition between Medicaid and Marketplace coverage.

Connect for Health Colorado supports this bill because it will complement our efforts, and the efforts of the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing and other key stakeholders, to ensure the smoothest transition possible from Medicaid to other comprehensive and affordable health coverage. Thank you for your attention, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Kevin Patterson

Kevin Patterson, CEO
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Connect for Health Colorado