

House Bill 26-1096 Colorado Medicaid Access to Primary Care Services

Concerning access to direct primary care services for Colorado Medicaid members.

Sponsors: Rep. Johnson, Rep. Feret, Sen. Rich

Committee: Health + Human Services

Direct Primary Care (DPC): DPC is a membership-based alternative payment model – like a gym membership or A La Carte structured system – for those without insurance or wanting another primary care option.

Background:

- **Under Current Law:** Prohibits non-enrolled Medicaid providers from collecting any reimbursement for services covered by Health First Colorado.
- **The Federal 1115 Waiver:** allows states with the flexibility to design and improve their Medicaid programs beyond what is typically allowed under federal law.
- **In Colorado:** *CO is one of two states (CO & KY) not using the Federal 1115 Waiver.*

Solution: HB26-1096 would direct HCPF to apply for the Federal 1115 Waiver.

HB26-1096 will help our most vulnerable – seniors, those with disabilities, and children on fixed incomes who are on Medicaid – in rural areas get the care they need while also helping to alleviate some of the burden on the healthcare system caused by having too many patients and not enough providers.

- Allows for a patient on Medicaid to get seen by a DPC provider if they cannot get seen by their regular medical provider within a reasonable amount of time and without needing to travel miles/hours to get care.
- Two-party opt in model:
 - The Patient: voluntarily seeks care from a DPC provider
 - The DPC Provider: voluntarily chooses to accept Medicaid Patients and to enroll as a Medicaid recognized “ordering, prescribing, referring” provider*If either the patient or DPC provider chooses not to opt-in, then nothing takes effect.*
- The patient would need to pay “cash” (cannot use Medicaid benefits to pay for DPC care), but they also would not lose their benefits by seeking DPC care.
- The DPC provider would need to enroll in the Medicaid program so that they can operate in an “ordering, prescribing, referring” (OPR) capacity while also being in compliance with Federal regulations at 42 CFR 455.410. This bill creates a new provider type in the HCPF system.

Comparison: Current Medicaid patients in rural CO may need to travel multiple hours and many miles to reach an enrolled primary care provider, which means needing gas money, access to transportation, potential childcare, more time off work, etc.

Results: Faster access to care for rural patients is potentially more affordable since DPC charges by month (not visit).

**DPC in Colorado, on average, ranges from about \$50 to \$150 a month.

Patients in Colorado, including those on Medicaid, have the right to choose the providers that best fit their unique health needs and have the ability to access health-care providers that are closer to home, when available.
