

Senate Health & Human Services

01/30/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-045 Health-Care Payment System Analysis

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Cory Gaines</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Cory Gaines. I am writing in opposition to HB24 - 1075.</p> <p>I am not a member of any organization and speak on no one else's behalf (save for those who are concerned about their ability to meet their bills as government takes more and more of our money).</p> <p>As a taxpayer, as a citizen of this state, I have watched with some alarm at the perennial attempts to institute a government-run or financed health insurance.</p> <p>This bill, while just a study, is clearly part of what would be a multi-year effort to institute such a program; it merely does so over a longer time scale to limit the amount of citizen and business complaint.</p> <p>I am alarmed at these efforts because I am old and wise enough to have seen multiple times how government-run programs are inefficient, costly, and result in yet more burdens on those that pay taxes. One only need look at the failure that the psuedo-public healthcare "Colorado Option" has been for multiple regions in this state.</p> <p>Are we to honestly believe that a full-on public healthcare system would go better?</p> <p>Our current system is not perfect, and I doubt you could find someone who would claim it's working well, but a trip to the DMV ought to convince nearly anyone that the government should be kept as far away as possible from anything we want to at least have hope of functioning well. And function cheaply.</p>

	<p>This bill will start the process to create a government-run healthcare system in this state.</p> <p>It will create a system that will grow government when our state government is already at record levels of personnel and cost.</p> <p>It will create a new entitlement in Colorado's budget that will further drag the economy of this state down.</p> <p>It will reach yet farther into the pockets of taxpayers, taking the money they might have spent on their own families.</p> <p>And it will do all of this without any substantive increase in the well-being of the average Coloradans which foot the bill.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no and concentrate your efforts on things that don't take money from taxpayers and that will actually improve the lives of Coloradans.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>C</p>
<p>Virginia GEBHART For Colorado Foundation For Universal Health Care</p>	<p>This bill will be funded by gifts, grants and donations. It will hire the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) to build on their work that was started by HB19-1176 Health Care Cost Savings Act. That study showed with macro level data that a unified public insurance plan to cover all Coloradans could save up to \$Billions per year. The analysis created by this bill will allow CSPH to provide data on a micro level. When they take a closer look, will the micro level data show that a public health insurance plan to cover all Coloradans is feasible?</p> <p>The unjustified killing of the UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson triggered an explosion of justified anger against corrupt corporate run health insurance. Thousands of people in Colorado live in fear of medical debt, even if they have insurance. Don't we have an obligation to find out if we can do better for the people of Colorado?</p>

	Please vote yes on SB25-045.
Heidi Leathwood For 350 Colorado	<p>Thank you Chair Mullica and members of the committee for the opportunity to give testimony. I regret that I am not able to appear in person before you. On behalf of 350 Colorado, I urge a yes vote on this SB25-045. There are many uncertainties Colorado and our nation face concerning health care and this bill provides the opportunity to study how to protect Coloradans. New policies at the federal level may reduce health care access. As a grassroots organization founded to work on the climate crisis and related issues, one of our concerns is the increasing health impacts that will be caused by the climate crisis, such as extreme heat exposure, increased respiratory and cardiac impacts from air pollution, and increased spread of disease due to changes of conditions related to climate change (including increased risk of future pandemics). These health risks are projected to be greater for disproportionately impacted communities - people who have fewer resources to cope with them, and are more likely to have problems with access to health care. This bill is an important first step to ensure all people in Colorado can receive the health care they need.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Heidi Leathwood, Climate Policy Analyst, 350 Colorado</p>

SUPPORT SB25-045

HEALTH-CARE PAYMENT SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Sen. Jaquez Lewis, & Sen. Marchman; Rep. McCormick & Rep. Boesenecker

The Health-Care Payment System Analysis will provide a detailed examination of the feasibility of creating a publicly financed universal health insurance payment system in Colorado, including how to pay for this system. SB25-045 will answer:

- What would a universal health care insurance system in Colorado look like for you?
- What would it cost you?
- What would be the impacts on your providers and other health care workers?
- What would the consequences be for your individual and community health?
- Where are the current gaps in your health care and how could such a system address these gaps?
- How would nonprofit public health insurance benefit all Coloradans in every demographic?

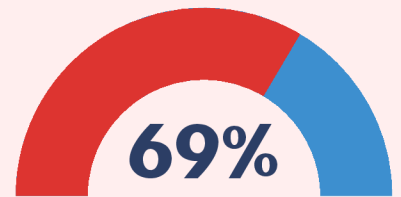
265,000*

*Colorado Health Institute, 2023

COLORADANS DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE, AND

- Coloradans are outraged with a private health insurance industry that delays, denies, and doesn't pay for health care, while charging higher and higher premiums, deductibles and copays.
- These tactics render a climbing number of Coloradans underinsured and prevent nearly half of them from accessing the care that they need.
- Younger adults, Latinx adults, and people with low incomes report the most concern about paying for care.
- Six in 10 Coloradans want fundamental changes to our health care system.

Source: How Coloradans Feel About Affordability and Health Reform, 2022



A 2023 survey found that almost 7/10 Coloradans characterized the cost of health care and mental health care as "extremely" or "very serious" concerns.

www.copulsepoll.org/results

What do we know?

HB19-1176 — The Health Care Cost Savings Act — created a Task Force supported by the experts at the Colorado School of Public Health to conduct an unbiased and nonpartisan comparison of Colorado's current health-care financing system with a multi-payer universal health care system that included private insurers and a publicly financed and privately delivered universal health-care payment system that directly compensates providers. The Task Force's 2021 report to the General Assembly found that "a fully publicly financed and privately delivered (universal) health care system could yield significant health care savings."

So, what's next?

We know that Coloradans need affordable and comprehensive health care and a clear path to a solution. Our state has significant data on the opportunities and barriers to a universal health care public insurance system, but we have more to do. **SB25-045 Health-Care Payment System Analysis is the next logical step.**



Questions? Please contact: [Andrea Wilkins at andrea@betheagenda.com](mailto:andrea@betheagenda.com)

ENDORSEMENTS FOR HB25-045



Arvadans for **Progressive Action**



Colorado Consumer Health Initiative



COLORADO FOUNDATION FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE



MENTAL HEALTH COLORADO



Students for a National Health Program

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK

350 Colorado
Citizens Project
Northern CO Alliance for a Livable Future



Join the coalition:
<https://bit.ly/HB24-1075>

Questions?
Andrea@BeTheAgenda.com