

# Colorado Guaranteed Health Care Act – Publicly Financed/Privatey Delivered

*Sponsors: Rep. John Kefalas & Sen. Joyce Foster*

The next step in creating a comprehensive health care system that guarantees coverage for all Coloradans.

## What will this Bill do?

The Colorado Guaranteed Health Care Act creates the Colorado Health Care Authority, as a body corporate and political subdivision of the state, with a 23-member board of directors that will design and create the Colorado Health Care System through a phased-in approach.

The mission of the authority is to create the Colorado Health Care System that shall be the benefits administrator and payer for health care services. The Authority shall create a system to recommend to the General Assembly that provides comprehensive medical benefits to all eligible participants in Colorado.

The system will include the following elements:

- Comprehensive medical benefits
- Choice of personal physician and medical providers
- Emphasis on quality and patient safety with incentives for improved health care outcomes
- Simplified electronic claims, billing, and payment throughout the system
- Standardized, confidential electronic patient records system
- Cost containment through administrative and system efficiencies
- Community health initiatives supporting innovative, efficient, and coordinated care
- Negotiation of favorable prices for prescription drugs and durable medical equipment
- Regional planning and administration
- Attention to health care disparities and provider shortages in rural and other underserved areas
- Support for education to address primary care, nursing, and other provider shortages
- Utilization of existing federal and state funding with a means-based premium to finance the system
- A transition plan that prioritizes retraining and job placement of displaced workers

Required covered benefits under the system will include: primary and preventive care; inpatient care; outpatient care; emergency care; prescription drugs; durable medical equipment; long-term care; mental health services; dental services; substance abuse treatment; chiropractic services; vision care and correction; and hearing services and hearing aids.

## Why is this Bill needed?

- Health care is unavailable or unaffordable to 800,000 Coloradans, and many more are underinsured.
- For business, the increasing cost of providing employee health care is not economically sustainable.
- All Coloradans pay for the uninsured as health insurance premiums increase to cover the uninsured.
- A cost-effective and humane means to address the problems of access, cost and quality is a comprehensive health care system that guarantees coverage, which is publicly funded and privately delivered with individual choice of medical providers and services.

## No Fiscal Impact

The first phase of the Authority will be funded with gifts, grants, and donations. In order to create the system, the Authority will seek waivers, exemptions and agreements with the state and federal government as needed. The General Assembly will approve the final implementation of the system.



Questions - Media  
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See: [www.healthcareforallcolorado.org](http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org) for the complete draft of the bill.