

HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

The following are principles developed by a coalition of labor, business, health care and advocacy organizations who have declared the health care status quo “unacceptable” and are building an alliance to promote comprehensive health care reform in Colorado. Rep. Ellen Roberts distributed these principles at Legislative Lowdown February 7, 2009, saying that before real progress can be made on health care issues in our state, we must agree on these principles.

Universal - All Colorado residents should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Colorado’s health care system should address non-residents who become ill in Colorado.

Wellness and Health Promotion – Government, businesses and individuals all have a role to play in the promotion and support of healthy lifestyles.

Personal Responsibility – Consumers should make reasonable efforts to ensure they finance their health care needs and take an active role in their health maintenance.

Transparency – Accurate, user-friendly information on price, quality and outcomes should be made accessible to the public.

Health Information Technology – Greater use of health information technology is necessary to achieve gains in quality, outcomes and efficiencies.

Competitive Market – Competitive market forces should be included in our health care system because they can play a positive role.

Coordinated Care – Optimal health and cost efficiencies are achieved through the coordination of care, the use of preventive services and the management of chronic disease.

Choice – Providing a plurality of options of providers, insurers, plans, benefit designs and financing for individuals and groups is important in health care reform.

Regulatory controls – Regulatory controls should ensure consumer protection and maintain a healthy marketplace.

Provider Reimbursement – Health care providers should be fairly compensated for their services, and in return, providers should ensure that services delivered maximize quality, safe and effective care.

Public Programs – Government should have a role in facilitating or providing access to health care. Public health and environmental policy should play a meaningful role in ensuring and protecting the good health of our population.

Long-term Care – Long-term care must be addressed in any health care reform effort. Coloradans should have a quality, affordable choice to live independently in one’s own home or community.

End of Life Care – Colorado should address the difficult issues surrounding end of life care.