

February 19, 2015

Members of the House Health Insurance and Environment Committee:

We, the undersigned, respectfully oppose HB15-1163, concerning "Contingent Repeal of Health Insurance Laws Aligning with the Affordable Care Act (ACA)."

This bill would repeal many provisions of state health insurance law, contingent on the repeal of similar provisions in the ACA. Coloradans should have the peace of mind that they can get the health insurance coverage and care they need, when they need it. HB15-1163 would rollback the protections in Colorado law that guarantees this assurance.

Passage of HB15-1163 would put Colorado consumers at risk:

- 2,250,000 Coloradans have preexisting conditions that could once again be used to deny them coverage or charge higher health insurance premiums.
- Insurance companies could again cancel coverage if a consumer made an honest mistake on their application.
- 1,382,000 Coloradans who gained free preventive services could lose access to critical prevention tools that lead to better health outcomes, increased productivity, and overall savings to consumers and the health care system. Consumers could be charged for blood pressure screenings, cancer screenings, birth control, depression screenings and dozens of other preventive services.
- 50,000 young adults between the ages of 18-26 could be kicked off of their parents' insurance, jeopardizing their health and putting them at significant financial risk if they have a major accident or become ill.
- 1,115,000 Coloradans could lose mental health coverage that gives consumers access to the same benefits, at the same cost, as coverage for physical health.

We strongly oppose HB15-1163 and respectfully urge a "no" vote because it will threaten Coloradans' access to quality, affordable health insurance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AARP Colorado
Alzheimer's Association of Colorado
American Diabetes Association
Chronic Care Collaborative
ClinicNET
Colorado AIDS Project
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Council of Churches
Colorado Interfaith Voices for Justice

Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Mental Health America of Colorado
NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado
One Colorado Education Fund
Oral Health Colorado
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties