

HB15-1163. Testimony of Don Rodgers
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In March of 2010, Nancy Pelosi, then US House Majority Leader, made what has become the defining statement concerning the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare) and a testament to what is wrong with Washington's legislative process, "We have to pass it to see what's in it." The truth of her often ridiculed statement is that no one knew what this law would morph into, because the 2,400 plus pages of the "law" bears no resemblance to how it is being implemented. Every day, Americans find not just what is in it, but learn they are paying a heavy and unwanted price for what is in it.

HB15-1163, Contingent Repeal Health Insurance Laws Aligning with ACA "adds an automatic repeal to provisions in the state health insurance laws that is triggered if the comparable federal law requirement under the ACA is repealed by Congress and approved by the President."

This is not a partisan effort to repeal ACA, but it is a common sense effort to react to changes as Washington makes must needed adjustments to ACA as well as to prepare for the possibility of Obamacare being repealed in its entirety.

The failures of Obamacare continue to mount and even original cheerleaders for ACA see it is not benefiting those the law claimed to help.

- In 2013, the Huffington Post sounded the alarm that ACA is causing part-time workers to have their work hours cut in order for employees to escape the punitive costs imposed by Obamacare.
- Last week, 20,000 union Longshoreman threatened to shut down 29 US ports as Obamacare is forcing them to pay taxes on their negotiated healthcare benefits, all because the government says their healthcare plans are too generous.
- Just yesterday, Congressional Democrats begged the White House to grant an extension to signing up for coverage as the punitive IRS penalties for not having the required and Washington approved insurance is punishing millions of people who usually pay no federal tax at tax time.

The media is full of stories of families devastated by massive out of pocket costs forced upon them through changes in their health insurance which are mandated by Obamacare and reports of the increasing burdens placed upon doctors to comply with ACA at the expense of patient care are equally numerous. Even Democrat members of the House Insurance, Health, and Environment committee acknowledged these problems as they heard testimony on HB 15-1066, the Repeal of the Colorado State Health Benefit Exchange. The status-quo is, by everyone's account, unacceptable.

The Colorado legislature has a chance via HB15-1163 to put in place options to prepare to detangle us from a federal law that is hurting Colorado families. As stated by Representative Kim Ransom(R) during a previous hearing on healthcare in Colorado, "Health insurance coverage does not equal healthcare" and the Affordable Care Act is proving anything but affordable and is not improving the healthcare of the majority of Colorado citizens.

We can do better together and our legislators can do better than Washington in working to improve healthcare in our state. HB15-1163 is a reasonable step in the right direction.