



"Voice of the Western Slope since 1953"
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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January 26, 2015

The Honorable Elizabeth McCann, Chair
 House Health, Insurance & Environment Committee
 136 State Capitol
 Denver, CO 80203-1792

The Honorable Su Ryden, Chair
 House State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
 136 State Capitol
 Denver, CO 80203-1792

Sent via email this date: c/o Amanda.king@state.co.us & c/o Jessika.shipley@state.co.us

Re: HB15-1066 - (Joshi | Lundberg) - Repeal Health Benefit Exchange

Dear Representative McCann and Representative Ryden:

CLUB 20 opposes HB15-1066 repealing the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange and supporting advisory and oversight groups. CLUB 20 supported the original bill that created the exchange to ensure Colorado was developing a market place appropriate for Colorado. Colorado's exchange is one of only a few throughout the country that is market based and competitive in nature.

Rationale: Colorado made a wise decision to create its own health exchange separate from the federal government and CLUB 20 was a major supporter of that decision. Our opposition to HB15-1066 is based on the following:

1. ACA won't go away if the Colorado Exchange is repealed. Repeal would only result in replacing the Colorado exchange with the Federal exchange.
2. The Colorado participant tax is 1/2 the Federal Tax.
3. Repeal would take out a non-profit entity.
4. Colorado would lose jobs that would be replaced with jobs in Washington, D.C., and would be less focused on needs of Coloradans.
5. The Federal Exchange is in far worse condition than the Colorado Exchange. Participant access to the Federal Exchange enters through the carriers rather than directly to the Exchange. It's not a real marketplace and comparing Plans among carriers is virtually impossible; something the Colorado Exchange is much more adept at.

6. Some Western Colorado communities are home to the highest insurance premium rates in the country, allowing the federal exchange to take over health care in Colorado will only exacerbate that issue.

The Colorado exchange was created through a robust stakeholder process with all at the table. The exchange is a Colorado specific solution to a federal law; Colorado is much better able to address the needs of Coloradans. CLUB 20 will continue to oppose any effort to materially curtail or repeal Colorado's Health Benefit Exchange. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the CLUB 20 office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Les Mergelman, Chairman
CLUB 20



Dick Allison, Chair
CLUB 20 Health Care Committee

Copies to: West Slope Legislators
Action 22
Progressive 15