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RE: WHY WE NEED A SINGLE-PAYER RESOLUTION

Dear Members of Health Care Task Force,

- Should the Kucinich and/or Sanders amendments pass at the federal level, Colorado would want to be prepared to seriously consider adopting a fiscally responsible method of ensuring that its residents receive health care.
- Should whatever passes at the federal level indicate that Public Options and/or Exchanges are to be established at the state rather than the national level, Colorado would want to be prepared with a single-payer choice.
- According to the Commonwealth Fund State Scorecard on Health System Performance, October 2009, Colorado ranks in the bottom quartile for Access—a decline from the 2007 Ranking.
- As you knock on doors and read polls, you know that many, many people in Colorado are pushing for a single-payer system. By endorsing this resolution you are responding to their voices. The voter backlash may be fierce if single-payer is “left off the table” when Colorado’s own 208 Commission found single-payer to be the only plans that provided universal coverage and actually save money.
- We cannot develop single-payer ideas, even for discussion and consideration, unless we make a commitment to pursue its value.
- **For moral, economic and public health reasons, Colorado needs a single-payer system.**
- And then, of course, there are the human factors—beyond the numbers of uninsured and underinsured and frightened-insured—there are the actual sufferings of human beings and the lingering questions of “Who are we to allow preventable suffering? Who are we when we fail to commit to health care for all? Who are we when we spend money without receiving value, when money is so desperately needed here and now? And more importantly, who are we when we do work diligently to obtain a system that is sustainable and that cares for our neighbors as well as for ourselves? Who are we?”

Thank you for the work you do. You make a difference and it is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lyn Gullette