

Senate
State of Colorado
Denver

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE
CHAIR
STATE, VETERANS & MILITARY
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEMBER

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Senate District 21

January 25, 2012

Representative Cheri Gerou
Chair, Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representative Gerou:

The SMART Act allows a committee of reference to make formal recommendations to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) regarding state departments' budgets, based on the committee's hearings with their assigned departments. The Senate Health and Human Services Committee met on January 25, 2012, to discuss recommendations to the JBC per the SMART Act. At its meeting, the committee made the following recommendations regarding the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's budget.

The committee recommended, by a 5 to 3 vote, with one member excused, that the Joint Budget Committee consider alternative sources of revenue to generate the \$437,375 the department has proposed to generate by imposing new copayments for the following Medicaid services:

- nonemergency medical transportation;
- outpatient substance abuse treatment;
- physical, occupational, and speech therapy;
- home health care; and
- private duty nursing.

Additionally, the committee recommended, by a 5 to 3 vote, with one member excused, that the Joint Budget Committee delay approval of the department's R-13 budget request related to the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) Electronic Document Management System until the committee has considered the department's forthcoming supplemental request regarding CBMS.

One member of the committee expressed support for the use of copayments in the Medicaid program, but expressed concern with the Health and Human Services Committee's process of making recommendations to the Joint Budget Committee, stating that the Health and Human Services Committee's processes were not clear enough to warrant an up or down vote on whether to support or oppose the copayment increases.




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Another member of the committee expressed support for the department's efforts to redesign the Medicaid long-term care system and the encouraged the department to continue efforts to make efficient use of limited funds for long-term care services.

Sincerely,



Senator Betty Boyd, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

- c: Joint Budget Committee Members
- Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members
- Sue Birch, Executive Director, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Carrie Cortiglio, Legislative Liaison, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee
- Elizabeth Burger, Legislative Council Staff