



Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 228 to eliminate the 6 percent Arveschoug-Bird general fund appropriations provision, which is being sponsored by Sen. Morse and Rep. Marostica.

As Colorado faces an escalating budget and economic crisis the healthcare community stands in support of the state using every tool it can to shorten the recession, strengthen our economy, create jobs, and improve our fiscal standing. The 6 percent provision prevents Colorado from making smart decisions based on key priorities, current economic conditions, and Coloradan's needs. It requires governing by formula, rather than by needs and priorities.

If we don't eliminate the 6 percent provision, general fund cuts made now will effectively be permanent. When the economy recovers, and the one-time federal stimulus goes away, other states will restore their investments, while the ratchet effect of the 6 percent provision will keep Colorado at recession-level spending. That's bad for jobs, bad for our economy and bad for Colorado families.

The needs of our state and its citizens are not static. They change with the times, they change with economic conditions, and they change with what our priorities should be. Families adapt, businesses adapt, and it's long past time that state government adapts to 21st century economic realities. If we don't act, a bad situation will only be made worse. When it comes to maximizing federal stimulus dollars, creating jobs, strengthening our fiscal landscape, investing in priorities like education and healthcare and turning the economy around, Colorado is handcuffed. Getting rid of the 6% provision is the key.

The idea is supported by Republicans, Democrats, and dozens of organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Coloradans. We respectfully urge you to support the Morse/Marostica legislation that would remove the 6 percent provision and put us on track for a stronger economic future.

Sincerely,

Deborah Colburn
Executive Directive