

Health Care Reform Principles

Shared Principles of the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado



Health Care Reform Principles

Shared Principles of the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado is a coalition of labor, business, health care and advocacy organizations who have declared the health care status quo "unacceptable" and are building an alliance to promote comprehensive health care reform in Colorado. The Partnership is educating communities statewide about the opportunity to achieve meaningful health care reform, engaging in ongoing discussions about solutions to the health care crisis, and encouraging lawmakers to take action.

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado believes that we all have a stake in the urgent need to improve the delivery of health care in Colorado. For decades, the cost and demand for care has been outpacing our economy. The corresponding increase in health insurance premiums has resulted in a growing number of people unable to access health care they can afford. Too often, health care is being delivered inefficiently, to the detriment of our state's physical and financial health. These trends are unsustainable and the status quo is unacceptable.

Reforming Colorado's health care system in a meaningful way will require the responsible engagement of numerous stakeholders. Toward that end, we believe this set of principles, developed by the diverse coalition of businesses, consumers and providers of the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado, can serve as a valuable roadmap to reform. No one principle is to be taken on its own, but rather, all are meant to be taken in balance with, and in consideration, of the others. Genuine reform will require a comprehensive, systemic approach that emphasizes shared responsibility.

Universal – All Colorado residents should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Colorado's health care system should address non-residents who become ill in Colorado.

Wellness and Health Promotion – Government, businesses and individuals all have a role to play in the promotion and support of healthy lifestyles.

Personal Responsibility – Consumers should make reasonable efforts to ensure they finance their health care needs and take an active role in their health maintenance.

Transparency – Accurate, user friendly information on price, quality and outcomes should be made accessible to the public.

Health Information Technology – Greater use of health information technology is necessary to achieve gains in quality, outcomes and efficiencies.

Competitive Market – Competitive market forces should be included in our health care system because they can play a positive role.

Coordinated Care – Optimal health and cost efficiencies are achieved through the coordination of care, the use of preventive services and the management of chronic disease.

Choice – Providing a plurality of options of providers, insurers, plans, benefit designs and financing for individuals and groups is important in health care reform.

Regulatory Controls – Regulatory controls should ensure consumer protection and maintain a healthy marketplace.

Provider Reimbursement – Health care providers should be fairly compensated for their services, and in return, providers should ensure that services delivered maximize quality, safe and effective care.

Public Programs – Government should have a role in facilitating or providing access to health care. Public health and environmental policy should play a meaningful role in ensuring and protecting the good health of our population.

Long-term Care – Long-term care must be addressed in any health care reform effort. Coloradans should have a quality, affordable choice to live independently in one's own home or community.

End of Life Care – Colorado should address the difficult issues surrounding end of life care.

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado



American Association of Retired Persons



Colorado Association of Health Plans



Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters



Kaiser Permanente



Autism Society of Colorado



Colorado Children's Campaign



Colorado Medical Society



National Federation of Independent Business



The Bell Policy Center



Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved



Front Range Economic Strategy Center



Service Employees International Union



Business Health Forum



Colorado Consumer Health Initiative



Health Care for All Colorado



UC Denver School of Medicine

For more information about Partnership for a Healthy Colorado contact, Gretchen Hammer at 303-673-9158 or ghammer@publicleader.org.



The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado is a coalition of labor, business, health care and advocacy organizations who have declared the health care status quo "unacceptable" and are building an alliance to promote comprehensive health care reform in Colorado.

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado seeks to bridge the divides, identify common values, and engender the political courage necessary to achieve meaningful, comprehensive health care reform in Colorado.

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado believes that we all have a stake in the urgent need to improve the delivery of health care in Colorado. For decades, the cost and demand for care has been outpacing our economy. The corresponding increase in health insurance premiums has resulted in a growing number of people unable to access health care they can afford. Too often, health care is being delivered inefficiently, to the detriment of our state's physical and financial health. These trends are unsustainable and the status quo is unacceptable.

The Partnership has developed a set of principles that can serve as valuable touchstones as we reform the health care system in Colorado. For a list of these principles please visit our website www.healthypartnership.org.

In alignment with our shared principles, the Partnership is focused on three goals:

- Educate communities statewide about the fundamental components of our health care system and prepare them for choices they will be asked to make as policy makers pursue health care reform
- Instill confidence in policy makers, Colorado citizens, and the media that reform is possible
- Create the political and community momentum necessary to produce progress in the area of health care reform.

Members of the Partnership Include:

- American Association of Retired Persons
- Autism Society of Colorado
- The Bell Policy Center
- Business Health Forum
- Colorado Association of Health Plans
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
- Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
- Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters
- Colorado Medical Society
- Front Range Economic Strategy Center
- Health Care for All Colorado
- Kaiser Permanente
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Services Employees International Union
- University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine