



Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

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208 Commissioners Express Thanks for Public Input

Denver, Colo., May 14, 2007 – Public response to the public meetings convened by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform May 10 and 12 was overwhelming, with hours of testimony from scores of concerned citizens statewide. The testimony will inform commissioners' decision about which proposals they should submit for rigorous analysis, as well as their work on developing a consolidated proposal.

“This public input is crucial for our deliberations and we greatly appreciate the time community members spent at these meetings,” said Bill Lindsay, chairman of the Commission. “This feedback will help us determine which of the health reform proposals submitted to us we should subject to rigorous analysis, as well as inform our thinking if the Commission chooses to develop its own consolidated proposal.”

Vice-chair Mark Wallace also expressed the Commission's appreciation and noted the significant turnout at the meetings and the breadth of the input provided. “We heard hours of testimony from people from all walks of life, all ages and all points on the political spectrum. They shared heart-wrenching stories of their personal experiences with the health care system as well as perceptive insights about the features and principles they believe are essential to effective health reform.”

Meetings were held in Denver, Glenwood Springs, Fort Collins, Pueblo and Durango. All comments from the meetings are being compiled for review by commissioners prior to their May 17-18 meeting, at which time they will identify three-to-five comprehensive proposals for technical modeling.

About the Commission

Colorado has 770,000 uninsured residents, including nearly 180,000 children. Public opinion polls show concern about health care as the top issue for Americans. Coloradans, like most Americans, are anxious for solutions to the rising cost of health care and the growing number of people who cannot afford health insurance.

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform was created by the Colorado Legislature in 2006. The Commission is charged with making recommendations for comprehensive health care reform with the goal of increasing health care coverage and decreasing costs for Colorado residents, with particular emphasis on the issues of the uninsured, underinsured, and those at risk of financial hardship due to the costs of medical care. The Commission is required to make final recommendations for comprehensive health care reform to the General Assembly by November 30, 2007.

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