



## Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

### Opportunity for Public Comment

#### What is the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform?

Created by the Colorado Legislature in 2006, the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform is charged with making recommendations for comprehensive health care reform in our state. Our goal is to increase access to health care coverage and decrease 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 to the General Assembly by November 30, 2007.

#### Public Comment

The Commission is now at the stage of reviewing 28 health care reform proposals that have been submitted to us. On May 7, 2007, the Commission will meet to narrow down the proposals for further consideration. At our meeting on May 17-18 we will select 3-5 that will be submitted to an independent firm for further evaluation. (View proposals at [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission).)

As we identify those proposals to receive detailed evaluation, public input is important. What principles and features are important to you? Please attend one of these upcoming public meetings to share your views with us.

#### Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform May 2007 Public Meetings

##### May 10

<b>Metro Denver</b>	4-7 p.m.	Wheat Ridge Recreation Center 4005 Kipling
<b>Glenwood Springs</b>	4-7 p.m.	City Hall – Council Chambers 101 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> St., main level (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)

##### May 12

<b>Pueblo</b>	9 a.m. - noon	Convention Center 320 Central Main St.
<b>Durango</b>	9 a.m. - noon	Mercy Medical Center 1010 Three Springs Blvd.
<b>Fort Collins</b>	1-4 p.m.	Harmony Public Library 4616 S. Shields St.

*Maps of all locations available at [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission) under "Public Input"*

All locations are ADA accessible. Please submit requests for reasonable accommodations to Anita Wesley at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing you plan to attend. Good faith efforts will be made to fulfill all requests submitted with fewer than 7 days notice.

303 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

Phone: 1-888-776-2332 Fax: 303-837-8496

Website: [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission) E-mail: [208commission@coloradofoundation.org](mailto:208commission@coloradofoundation.org)



## Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

### Questions to Address in Your Testimony

- (1) What are the one or two most important features that you feel must be included in any Colorado health care reform?
- (2) What is the most important principle that should be considered in any reform effort?

**\*\*\*Please provide written testimony at the time of your oral presentation\*\*\***

**Please note: The Commission most appreciates those comments that help to inform us broadly about what is important to you. We ask that you frame your comments in response to the questions identified above. If you would like to comment on specific proposals, please do so in your written testimony.**

### **How Will the Commission Use Your Testimony?**

- An oral summary of the testimony received will be presented to the full Commission at its meeting on May 17-18, 2007.
- Any written testimony received by May 12, 2007, will be distributed to all Commissioners for review in advance of the May 17-18 meeting.

### **The Commission's Guiding Principles**

The Commission's mandate is to identify proposals that will increase coverage and reduce costs. The following principles guide its work:

- Protect and improve the health status of all Coloradans.
- Expand coverage of essential health care services for all Coloradans, with an emphasis on the uninsured and underinsured.
- Align incentives to provide high-quality, cost-effective and coordinated care.
- Support a system that is financially viable, sustainable and fair.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful choice and encourage personal responsibility.
- Emphasize wellness, prevention, health, education and consumer empowerment.

### **Upcoming Opportunities for Public Input and Topics for Discussion**

Timeframe	Topic
Summer 2007	To be determined. Check our Web site
October 2007	Recommendations to the Colorado Legislature

Additional opportunities to comment on or participate in the work of the Commission throughout the year will be posted on the Commission's Web site, [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission). All Commission meetings are open to the public. All reform proposals are available on the website, and a side-by-side comparison will be available on May 3, 2007. For additional information, [208commission@coloradofoundation.org](mailto:208commission@coloradofoundation.org), 888-776-2332 (phone), 303-837-8496 (fax).

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