



Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform Begins Proposal Selection Process *Upcoming Public Meetings Offer Opportunity for Comment*

Denver, Colo., May 7, 2007 – The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform has identified 11 health reform proposals, of the 31 submitted for review, to consider for further evaluation. The Commission will meet again May 17-18 to narrow this interim slate to a list of three-to-five for detailed analysis. Public comment is invited at meetings May 10 and 12.

The proposals identified in the first round are:

Better Health Care for Colorado –

proposed by Service Employees International Union

Comprehensive Health Care Plan for Colorado –

proposed by CLUB 20

Solutions for a Healthy Colorado –

proposed by Colorado State Assn. of Health Underwriters

A Phased Approach To Achieving Universal Health Coverage in Colorado –

proposed by Kaiser Permanente Colorado

Connecting Care and Health for Colorado –

proposed by Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

An Individual-Based Insurance System Combining Free Market Principles with an Appropriate Role for Government –

proposed by South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce

Healthy Colorado Now –

proposed by Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Community of Caring –

proposed by Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Access, Colorado Behavioral Health Council

A Plan for Covering Coloradans –

proposed by Committee for Colorado Health Care Solutions

Colorado Health Services Program –

proposed by Health Care for all Colorado Coalition

FAIR Health Care –

proposed by Brian Schwartz

“The Commission faced a difficult selection process. We strove to identify a diverse array of proposals to consider in the next round of our deliberations,” said Bill Lindsay, Commission co-chair. “Even among the proposals that were not selected today, we identified worthy elements that merit consideration. The commissioners will consider those ideas as we continue our discussions, especially if we develop a consolidated proposal.”

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He went on to say, “Every single proposal submitted to the Commission represents an enormous amount of effort, and the Commission greatly appreciates the work of all the proposers.”

Thirty-one proposals were submitted to the Commission. Of those, 23 were “comprehensive” proposals that met the Commission’s criteria to be considered for technical evaluation. All proposals are available for review at the Commission’s Web site, www.colorado.gov/208commission.

Before the Commission meets on May 17-18 to identify the proposals that will undergo detailed technical analysis, it will conduct community meetings around the state to hear opinions about the features and principles that Colorado citizens feel are most essential to an effective reform plan.

Public meetings will be held as follows:

Thursday, May 10

- Wheat Ridge, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling
- Glenwood Springs, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Glenwood Springs City Hall – Council Chambers, 101 8th St.

Saturday, May 12

- Pueblo, 9:00 a.m. – noon, Convention Center, 320 Central Main St.
- Durango, 9:00 a.m. – noon, Mercy Medical Center, 1010 Three Springs Boulevard
- Fort Collins, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Harmony Public Library, 4616 S. Shields St.

About the Commission

Colorado has 770,000 uninsured residents with nearly 180,000 of them 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.

For additional information please contact Edie Sonn at 720-201-7307, Anita Wesley at 303-837-8466, ext. 137 or e-mail the Commission at 208commission@coloradofoundation.org.

Follow the work of the Commission at www.colorado.gov/208commission.

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