

STATEMENT ON THE SUPREME COURT DECISION REGARDING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – June 28, 2012 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s Executive Director Susan E. Birch issued the following statement in response to the United States Supreme Court decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act:

“Today’s decision means that more uninsured Coloradans could gain access to Medicaid beginning in 2014. We will spend the coming weeks further analyzing the specific impact of the decision. In Colorado, we have been working for years towards reforming our health care system and covering the uninsured.

The Department, in collaboration with the Governor, our partner agencies, legislative partners, county partners, providers and other stakeholders, has been moving forward to implement the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Had we not done this, we may have missed out on federal funding to modernize our eligibility and enrollment systems and would have faced challenges meeting the federal deadlines for implementation of the law.

Because of the collaborative planning that has been done by the Department and stakeholders, Colorado is well positioned to successfully implement federal health care reform. The Department will continue to focus on improving health outcomes and containing health care costs in all of our programs. The additional funding provided by the Affordable Care Act will help us meet the goal of delivering the best value for every health care dollar spent.”

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

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