

Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:20 PM

To: Essential Health Benefits

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS RE. ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS AND THE BENCHMARK PLANS

Dear Friends,

As the media and legislative representative for Christian Science in the State of Colorado, I am concerned that the Colorado Exchange not overlook or neglect mandated insurance coverage options for the many Coloradans who may choose a non-medical form of health care.

Whether it's naturopathy, homeopathy, acupuncture, massage therapy, yoga, meditation, or prayer-based spiritual care (as practiced by Christian Scientists), 40% of the adult population (nationally) spend \$30 billion annually (out-of-pocket) for such health care because they find it EFFECTIVE. It is NOT accurate to say that eventually, all Coloradans will need medical care and so should pay insurance premiums for such care.

Now that the individual mandate has been found to be constitutional, it's only fair that COHBE provide options that work for all Coloradans.

Of the benchmark plans being considered, **only the third Federal Plan (Government Employee Health Association Plan) offers coverage for Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nursing services.** So, I would urge the Insurance Commission, the Governor, and the Legislative Oversight Committee to select that plan as our benchmark plan for the Exchange.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Most cordially,

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