



# COLORADO

## Governor Jared Polis

For far too long, Coloradans have been forced to grapple with the skyrocketing costs of health care, an issue that has been made even more urgent by the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Polis ran on the promise to save Coloradans money on health care, and since taking office is making significant progress.

Saving Coloradans Money on Health Care - In 2019, just weeks after taking office, Governor Polis created the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care and appointed Lieutenant Governor and longtime patient advocate Dianne Primavera as the Director. The office serves as a hub that brings together state agencies, community advocates, legislators, and other thought partners to coordinate and collaborate to save Coloradans money on health care. To date, the office has played a central role in delivering on key promises the Polis-Primavera administration has made to Coloradans to make healthcare more affordable.

### Legislative Accomplishments

- HB21-1232, Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option: This legislation creates the Colorado Option, which will give Coloradans more opportunities to purchase affordable health care coverage. By 2025, insurance premiums will have to be 15% less than the rates insurers offered in 2021, adjusted for inflation or the state will take action to ensure lower rates.
- SB21-175, Prescription Drug Affordability Board: Coloradans shouldn't have to choose between paying for life saving medication or paying for food or a place to live. This legislation creates the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, which is tasked with lowering prescription drug costs for Colorado consumers.
- HB21-1097, Behavioral Health Administration: Creates the Behavioral Health Administration, as recommended by the Behavioral Health Taskforce, which will provide leadership and help to unify, coordinate and streamline our state's behavioral health response so that all Coloradans can get the care they need.
- HB19,1168 State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program: This legislation created the reinsurance program to lower the cost of health insurance on the individual market. Since being passed three years ago, this program has reduced rates by 20% on average for Coloradans, and even more in some of the highest cost areas across the state.
- SB19-005, Import Prescription Drugs From Canada: paved the way for prescription drugs to be imported from Canada and other countries at more affordable prices, pending federal approval.
- HB19-1001 Hospital Transparency Measures To Analyze Efficacy: This legislation improves hospital transparency and helps protect Colorado consumers from high hospital prices.
- HB19-1216 Measures to Reduce a Patient's Costs of Prescription insulin Drugs and HB21-1307 Increase Access to Prescription Insulin for Persons with Diabetes: Together

these Acts cap the cost to consumers of a month's supply of insulin at \$100, create an Insulin Affordability Program for people who are uninsured and establishes an emergency program so that people can get a one month supply of insulin on an emergency basis for \$35.

- HB19-1320 Hospital Community Benefit Accountability Increases community engagement and accountability for nonprofit hospitals' community benefit spending and establishes a reporting requirement and public accountability about the investments they make.