Coloradans Need the Colorado Option

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Many Coloradans are going without health insurance because they cannot afford it.

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"Right now I don't have health insurance because it costs $600/month, which is too expensive for me."
- Amy, Arapahoe County

"Two of my best friends work and do not have health insurance during a pandemic! I am worried about them."
- Liza, Jefferson County

Health insurance costs exhaust Coloradans' financial resources, rendering them unable to pay necessary living expenses.

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"I pay $300-400 a month for health insurance. I make too much for Medicaid and am stuck paying so much for premiums and deductibles. I have to choose between my health insurance or bills and it's so ridiculous."
- Corinthiah, Adams County

Coloradans want more affordable options for health insurance coverage.

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"Healthcare should be affordable for everyone. If you're sick you shouldn't have to go into debt to get treatment. There should be more options for people who can't afford healthcare on their own."
- April, Pueblo County

Even when covered by an employer, Coloradans still struggle with the cost of premiums and deductibles.

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"The price of insurance is too high, even with both me and my husband working. Our employers don't cover premiums and we have a high deductible, so it's difficult for us to afford insurance for our family."
- Roberta, Pueblo County

Many Coloradans feel that healthcare is unaffordable, the current system is not working for everyone, and action needs to be taken to decrease costs.

"It is not okay that people who have health insurance cannot afford health care either. They need to do better. People need help now!"
- Lisa, Denver County

"I have health insurance through my employer but I am still concerned about high insurance pricing. There should be affordable health insurance."
- Alisa, Adams County

Health insurance is particularly expensive in Colorado.

"The cost of living in Colorado is super high, and the cost of health insurance isn't affordable when you're paying to live here. I live paycheck to paycheck, and don't qualify for Medicare because my income is too high. I feel like I'm stuck between a rock and a hard place."
- Crystal, Arapahoe County

BIPOC, people with disabilities, and low-income households are disproportionately affected by high healthcare costs.

"I have struggled to afford healthcare because the bills are too high. It's especially hard for people with disabilities."
- John, 48, Adams County

"I feel like minorities are being targeted."
- Shavonne, Adams County

The cost of healthcare in Colorado is sometimes comparable to the cost of housing here.

"There was a time when my healthcare for me and my kid was $120 less than my mortgage."
- Kimberly, Arapahoe County

"I had to move back to South Carolina because I was getting charged about the same as a mortgage for healthcare"
- Joseph, Arapahoe County