



# The Colorado Affordable Health Care Option

A COLORADO SOLUTION TO SAVE PEOPLE MONEY ON HEALTH CARE

***Working Coloradans and our small businesses need a long-term solution that controls costs, improves access, and holds the healthcare industry accountable to provide more affordable health insurance options.***

## The Problem

- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 5 Coloradans struggled to afford their health care costs or went without care altogether. And now, more have lost their health care and **many small businesses can no longer afford to provide their employees expensive private insurance.** Meanwhile, **the health care industry, including big hospitals and insurance companies, are posting record profits.** (US of Care Survey)
- Coloradans in 1 in 6 counties still have no choices, with only **one** health insurance company offering individual insurance plans.
- Health disparities continue to run deep in our healthcare system (clearly shown through this pandemic) and we need more affordable health insurance options to improve health equity and ensure Black/African American, Native American, and Latinx Coloradans have access to the health insurance and health care they need.
- Addressing the root cause of rising health care costs is the **best way** to provide long-term affordable, quality health care for all Coloradans.
- Small businesses are struggling to provide health coverage to their employees because of health insurance costs. Without more affordable options, small businesses cannot grow or keep employees.

## The Solution

***Now is the time to act!*** This pandemic has showcased the failures of our health care system in Colorado. Working Coloradans and small businesses do not have time to wait. The status quo prolongs the inequities, excessive costs, crushing medical debt on Colorado Families, and lack of care for Coloradans.

An affordable healthcare option provides families the security and freedom to take control of their health and finances. Bringing health care costs down will help Colorado families and small businesses as well as ensure that Colorado is improving health equity for communities that have been priced out of our healthcare system for far too long.

We are working together to bring down health care costs in Colorado, and make healthcare affordable for ***you and your loved ones.***

**The Colorado Affordable Health Insurance Option would:**

- Require private health insurance companies to reduce their premiums by a certain percentage each year, and allow them to figure out how to do that with ***minimal government intervention.***
- If the health care industry is not able to find a way to bring costs down, the State of Colorado will offer a public health insurance option that is more affordable than the plans currently offered by private health insurance companies - **adding competition to the market to make health care more affordable.**

***Together, we can ensure that all Coloradans, including people of all races and incomes, have access to affordable health care, and provide a path for small businesses and working Coloradans to access lower cost plans to succeed.***