



The Health Care Cost Savings Act of 2019: HB19-1176 **Paths to affordably ensure Coloradans have health care**

With an eye to helping all Coloradans access affordable health care, Colorado Reps. Emily Sirota and Sonya Jaquez Lewis introduced the Health Care Cost Savings Act, HB19-1176 in the Colorado House of Representatives. Sen. Mike Foote is the bill's Senate sponsor.

The problem

Coloradans often avoid seeking medical care due to cost. Even the insured face high deductibles and daunting co-insurance costs, while about 350,000 Coloradans are uninsured. About 850,000 Coloradans are underinsured, meaning their insurance fails to protect them against medical debt and bankruptcy. Many people must choose between getting needed medicine or other health care and paying rent or buying groceries. Patients and providers both face an obstruction-filled maze of paperwork trying to get covered and get paid. **Any solutions forward should be simpler, easier, cost less, and help Coloradans survive and thrive.**

How the Act will help

The **Health Care Cost Savings Act** creates a task force to analyze health care financing systems in order to give the general assembly findings regarding the systems' costs of providing adequate health care to residents of the state.

The study will provide data about costs and savings across three models and evaluate how well each approach meets the health care needs of Coloradans. It will evaluate the current health care system; a publicly and privately funded multi-payer universal health care system; and a publicly financed, privately delivered universal health care system that directly pays providers. **It will provide lawmakers and the public with key data on how more Coloradans can have health care that costs us less.**

Bill supporters include: the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care, Colorado Social Legislation Committee, County Commissioners Acting Together, Health Care for All Colorado, Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Our Revolution Metro Denver, Our Revolution Boulder, Democratic Socialists of America (Denver Chapter), Arvadans for Progressive Action, Colorado Working Families, and Indivisible Colorado Legislative Table.

Majority public support is growing to fix health care in a way that covers everyone and costs less: The majority of Americans now support universal health care such as improved Medicare for all. Skyrocketing health care costs, especially for lifesaving medications, have led to a widespread demand for change. Most Democrats and Independents support single-payer health care, such as improved Medicare for All, as do 52 percent of Republicans, according to an August Reuters-Ipsos Survey.