

Support SB 14-187

Colorado Commission Affordable Health Care

Senators Aguilar & Roberts
Representatives Stephens & Schafer

SB 14-187 creates a 12-member commission to undertake a comprehensive, evidence based analysis of the principal cost drivers in health care in Colorado and the effectiveness of strategies for controlling health care expenditures. The Commission will include representatives from across the state, appointed on a bi-partisan basis by the Governor and Legislative Leadership.

Why do we need a cost commission?

Colorado will not be able to make meaningful recommendations on controlling health care costs until we understand the principal cost drivers in Colorado as well as effective solutions to address cost-drivers for our state. Several of our Colorado mountain communities now have the highest health insurance premiums in the nation. Health insurance premiums are based on the unit costs of providing care in that region. Insurance premiums will continue to rise and outpace inflation so long as medical costs continue to rise.

Consumers need more information to make value based purchasing decisions in health care.

As high health care costs impact everyone, everyone must play a role in addressing Colorado health care cost drivers. The Commission brings together representatives of business, hospitals, health plans and brokers, consumers, and experts and charges them with making evidence based recommendations for action to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Colorado is not alone in this. The high cost of health care is a nationwide problem and states as diverse as Massachusetts and Alaska have established commissions to study and make recommendations about costs. Colorado too can begin to impact the high cost of health care.

Supporting **SB14-187** continues Colorado's mission to make health care more accessible and more affordable in the best way for OUR STATE. The creation of this Commission is a proactive effort to examine the highest health care cost drivers in our system, and make recommendations about how we can make changes that improve access and quality, while lowering cost.

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