



Memorandum

ARIELLE MCINNIS-SIMONCELLI

Date: 1/29/2018

To: The Executive Committee of the Legislative Council

901 E Street, NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
pewtrusts.org

202.540.6370  
717.919.9254  
asimoncelli@pewtrusts.org

From: Senator Jim Smallwood and Representative Jonathan Singer

Re: Interest in participating in health note pilot with The Pew Charitable Trusts

As Chairs of the Senate Health and Human Services and House Public Health Care and Human Services Committees (the Committees), we write to express our interest in requesting technical assistance from the Health Impact Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts to implement a pilot of up to five "health notes" during the 2018 session of the Colorado General Assembly. The health notes will provide an objective analysis of the best available scientific evidence regarding the potential health impacts of select legislation being reviewed by these Committees. Based on the Health Impact Project's expertise in promoting health considerations during decision-making at all levels of government, the Committees welcome Pew's guidance and advice.

Health notes will draw from an expedited review of research to identify the best evidence of how a proposed bill could affect health. They will include both positive and negative effects—such as changes in asthma rates or physical activity—and explain how the measures could affect issues that strongly influence health, including education, employment, and housing. Health notes will also consider the context of the legislation and include available local data to illustrate its potential impacts on specific populations, locations, and programs. They are not intended to provide a cost-benefit analysis, support or oppose legislation, or provide recommendations. Instead, health notes provide legislators with data to support independent decision-making.

We request that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, who respectively serve as President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, submit a technical assistance request to the Health Impact Project using the enclosed template letter. Upon receipt of the request, the Health Impact Project will work with the Committees to identify appropriate topics for the health notes and key stakeholders to engage, and to establish criteria for selecting bills to analyze. The Health Impact Project will provide the requested technical assistance at no cost to the General Assembly. As requested by the Committees, Project staff members will conduct the research, develop the notes, provide printed copies of completed ones to Committee members, work with the Committees to distribute the notes to the General Assembly, and evaluate the process. They will also post the health notes online for the general public. At the conclusion of the 2018 session, the Health Impact Project will solicit feedback from lawmakers and other stakeholders about their value.

Thank you for your support of this important pilot project.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Smallwood  
Chair, Health and Human Services

Representative Jonathan Singer  
Chair, Public Health Care and Human Services