

COLORADO COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Bill Lindsay, Chair
 Cindy Sovine-Miller,
 Vice-Chair
 Elisabeth Arenales
 Jeffrey Cain
 Rebecca Cordes
 Greg D'Argonne
 Steve Erkenbrack
 Ira Gorman
 Linda Gorman
 Marcy Morrison
 Dorothy Perry
 Chris Tholen

Ex Officio

Susan Birch
 Dee Martinez
 Marguerite Salazar
 Jay Want
 Larry Walk

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Representative Chris Kennedy
 Colorado General Assembly
 200 E Colfax Avenue
 Denver, CO 80203

**RE. THE COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE; COMMISSION'S
POSITION ON TRANSPARENCY**

Dear Representative Kennedy:

I regret that I will be unavailable to attend the hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 23, regarding House Bill 17-1236. I have a previous engagement at that time which could not be changed.

In our discussion you asked if the Commission had taken a position on the legislation. We have not. In fact, our internal policies preclude us from taking positions on legislative matters. The Commission took that stance because we do not see our role as lobbying or direct involvement with the legislative process. That said, we do understand the interest that the bill sponsors have in increased transparency.

The Commission has spent a great deal of time studying the topic of transparency in health care and the need for data to inform public policy decisions. One of the challenges in our current environment is the lack of available data on various topics, such as hospital pricing. We also are aware of the fact that creating additional reporting requirements for any portion of the health care system adds complexity and administrative costs. The goal of this work would be lower prices, better outcomes, and overall improved value for consumers and purchasers alike.

It is important to note that our research does not indicate that increased transparency always results in a lowering of costs, especially in health care. There are many reasons for this but one important one is that increasing visibility into pricing is a rather new endeavor and thus academic studies testing the hypothesis do not exist in sufficient

numbers to enable one to make a confident assertion that the "juice is worth the squeeze."

I would direct you, and other interested parties to the Commission's November 2016 report (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Cost%20Commission%20November%202016%20report%20-%20Final.pdf>, page 18).

I hope that this summary is useful to you in your deliberations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lindsay III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "L".

William M. Lindsay III
Chair, Commission on Affordable Health Care