

Dear Chair Woman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to support SB20—215, the Colorado Health Insurance Affordability Fund. I am a program manager at ConnectAurora. As a certified Connect for Health Colorado Assistance Site we provide education and enrollment assistance to 4000 Aurora area residents each year.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide access to affordable insurance to all the families who come to us for assistance. Because of an unfortunate error in the Affordable Care Act, the “family glitch” prevents some members from accessing tax credits to purchase qualified health plans on the Connect for Health Colorado marketplace. The Colorado Health Insurance Affordability Fund will provide more Coloradans access to less expensive health care. In addition, I hope there will be resources applied to reduce the premiums for marketplace customers receiving financial assistance through the Advance Premium Tax Credits. As you can see from the examples below, there are consumers with employer insurance paying a large portion of their incomes to health insurance premiums.

A few examples:

Veronica’s husband’s employer offers insurance to Veronica and her two children for \$700 a month. The husband’s premium is \$150 bringing the total household insurance premiums to \$850 or 14.5 % of the household income. If the family were able to purchase the insurance on the exchange with financial assistance, the premium would be \$514 for a silver plan. The total family premiums would be \$664, 11 percent of the household income. Veronica lives in Aurora

Samantha’s employer offered her health insurance for \$200 a month, the premium for her husband was \$320 a month. The total premiums are over 15 percent of their household income. If her husband were able to purchase a marketplace plan with financial assistance, his Silver premium would be \$257 a month. Even with the marketplace financial assistance the combined premiums would amount to over 13 percent of the household income. This is a good example of how important the reinsurance program is for providing subsidies for low-income households. Samantha lives in Colorado Springs.

Carmelita would have to pay \$598 a month for coverage on her husband’s employer provided health insurance plan. Combined with her husband’s premium, the total payments would be approximately 12 percent of the household income. If Carmelita were able to purchase the least expensive silver plan with financial assistance, she could reduce her monthly premiums to \$470 a month or 9.7 percent of the household income. Carmelita and her family live in Aurora.

Holly’s premium for her employer plan is \$150 a month. To add her husband and son, the premium increases almost \$1000 a month. Combined, the total family premium would be almost 22 percent or a fifth of the household income. If Holly’s husband and son were able to purchase a plan on the marketplace with financial assistance the premium would be \$485 for the least expensive silver plan. The total family expenditure for health insurance would be 12 percent of the household income. Holly and her family live in Aurora.

Thank you,  
Allison Summerton  
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