





HB16-1336 Sen Donovan (Prime Sponsor), Sen Roberts (Co-Sponsor), “Study Geographic and Cost Drivers of Individual Health Plans”

Background

- Health insurance providers that sell individual policies are allowed to set premium rates based on four factors, one of which is where the individual lives (geographic rating area). The Division of Insurance (DOI) conducted a study in 2014 to evaluate the impacts of various geographic-rating-area configurations in Colorado. As a result of that study, DOI reduced the number of geographic rating areas from 11 to 9, retaining the seven urban areas and consolidating the state’s rural communities into two areas, beginning in the 2015 plan year.
- For many Coloradans, health insurance remains unaffordable. Statewide, individual insurance premium rates increased by an average of 9.84% in 2016, with increases as high as 40% in some communities. According to insurance carriers, premiums are driven by the cost and utilization of health care, which vary by region.
- HB16-1336 is sponsored by Rep. Rankin and Rep. Hamner in the House, where it passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support on April 1.

Reasons to Support HB16-1336:

-  We currently lack sufficient information and analysis to make educated determinations regarding viability and appropriateness of insurance rates throughout the state.
-  This study would be a useful update to the 2014 DOI analysis of rating areas. That study was based on 2010-12 data, and, in a post-ACA-implementation context, it’s important to consider the bases upon which rating areas are established.
-  Rising insurance rates are a statewide concern in Colorado, and therefore require statewide study. This study would allow DOI to consider how health care costs impact rates across the state.
-  **The ultimate goal is *affordable and accessible* health care for all Coloradans.**

Supporters

Colorado Counties, Inc.
Colorado Municipal League
Club 20
Colorado Children’s Campaign

Chronic Care Collaborative
Bell Policy Center
Colorado Center on Law & Poverty
Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative



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