



COLORADO

Gov. Jared Polis

B 2019 003

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care.

I. Background and Purpose

The goal of the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care (the Office) is to work with the Governor to implement policies that will lower health care costs while ensuring all Coloradans have access to affordable, quality care.

Health care costs are rising and, without bold action, are expected to continue increasing in the future. While there was a historic reduction in the number of uninsured Coloradans following the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, people across the state, especially those in rural and mountain communities, are losing ground because they cannot afford the care and coverage they need. Many Colorado families are going without necessary services and medications due to costs. It is imperative, therefore, that we address the root causes of skyrocketing health care costs and take action to make care and coverage more affordable for individuals, businesses, the uninsured, and state and local governments and employees.

II. Directives and Declarations

This Executive Order hereby creates the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care within the Governor's Office. The Office shall be dedicated to finding ways to lower the costs of health care for Coloradans.

The Office shall be led by the Lieutenant Governor, who will serve as Director of the Office, and comprised of staff to carry out the Office's mission. In her capacity as Director of the Office, the Lieutenant Governor will serve in the Governor's Cabinet.



Building on previous work, including that of the Commission on Affordable Health Care and the State Innovation Model (SIM), the Office will create and implement a roadmap for lowering the cost of health care, including, but not limited to: reducing the cost of individual health insurance by working with the General Assembly to authorize a reinsurance program in Colorado; developing proposals for new, lower cost health insurance options; empowering the Division of Insurance to protect consumers and support rural and mountain communities working to lower their health care costs; increasing hospital price transparency; and establishing programs to reduce prescription drug prices. The Office may also examine the potential for cost savings by: improving access to primary care and behavioral health care services; assessing the need for regulatory oversight in order to promote cost reductions; increasing opportunities for Coloradans to improve their own health through healthy eating and active living; and encouraging experimentation with new forms of health care pricing and payment models.

In addition, the Office will:

- Establish a statewide interagency collaborative effort to develop common policies and strategies to reduce the cost of health care for Coloradans. In order to increase efficiency and streamline agency and program coordination, the Director of the Office will lead a permanent interdepartmental Health Care Cabinet that consists of all agencies that are charged with health care oversight, management, delivery, and financing, including, but not limited to, the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, Public Health and Environment, Human Services, Regulatory Agencies (including the Division of Insurance), and Personnel and Administration.
- Coordinate relevant public and private stakeholders across state agencies and between state and federal projects.
- Develop policies and strategies to support innovation and efficiencies in health care systems in order to reduce health care costs.
- Work to ensure culturally competent and equitable access to health care by supporting efforts to lower health care costs for Coloradans across the state, regardless of geographic location, insurance coverage, income level, race, religion, sex, national origin, English language proficiency, age, disability, immigration status, or political affiliation or belief.
- Improve health in Colorado by developing, promoting, and implementing policies and strategies that reduce the costs of health care by promoting public health and addressing social determinants of health.

The Lieutenant Governor, in her role as Director, may engage expert assistance and work with stakeholders and state employees to advise the Office on issues related to its mission.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this twenty third day of
January, 2019.


Jared S. Polis
Governor