



SUPPORT HB 1389

F.A.I.R.

Fair Accountable Insurance Rates (Rep. M.Carroll/ Sen. Sandoval)

Consumers demand FAIR insurance rates!

Since 2000 Colorado family health care premiums have skyrocketed by 98%! Meanwhile health insurance carriers continue to make record profits in our state. It's time insurance companies make our health their bottom line.

CCHI supports legislation to make insurance carriers more efficient and transparent

Currently, Colorado insurance carriers can file a rate increase with the Division of Insurance with a mere justification. The FAIR bill requires carriers to get prior approval for proposed rate increases before they pass rate increases on to consumers and small business. The bill also makes a higher benefit ratio a favorable factor in the Division of Insurance's review of filed premium increases. This means that carriers will have to spend more of consumers' premium dollars on covering healthcare costs for consumers. The FAIR bill makes carriers accountable to consumers and makes premium regulation transparent.

What We Know:

- Colorado is the seventh highest insurance premium state in the country; even California has lower premium rates than Colorado. (AHIP Center for Policy and Research September 2006).
- Businesses recognize the importance of transparency in health care, 90% said it was a business priority for them (Thompson Survey 5/9/2007)
- From 2000-2007 Colorado health insurance premiums rose 98% while Coloradan wages only grew by 24% in the same period (KFF/KRET Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2006)
- Colorado has a higher than average rate of uninsured residents despite having the 7th highest per capita income in the nation. There are currently 792,000 uninsured Coloradans, of which 84% are members of working families (Colorado Health Institute 2006).
- When Coloradans go uninsured, we all pay the price. In 2005, the cost of caring for the uninsured raised Colorado family premiums by \$934 a year (Families USA June 2005).
- In Colorado, employer-sponsored insurance is declining at a greater rate than the national average. CO has experienced a 6.4 percentage point decline in employer-sponsored insurance since 2004, compared with the US decrease of 4.8 points (Community Catalyst October 2006).

Supporters of F.A.I.R.

American Cancer Society
 Autism Society of CO
 The Arc of Arapahoe & Douglas
 The Arc of Aurora
 The Arc of Denver
 The Arc of Pikes Peak
 Association of Enterprise Opportunity
 The Bell Policy Center
 FRESA
 Colorado AIDS Project
 CO Ambulatory Surgery Center Assoc.
 CO Center on Law & Policy
 CO Chiropractors Assoc.
 CO Citizens for Accountability
 CO Consumer Health Initiative
 CO Cross-Disability Coalition
 CO Developmental Disabilities Council
 CO Organizations Responding to AIDS
 CO Progressive Coalition
 CO Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG)
 CO Trial Lawyers Association
 CO Women's Healthcare Coalition
 Families USA
 Family Voices
 Health Care for All Colorado
 Mental Health America CO
 Micro Business Development
 Northern CO AIDS Project
 Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
 Progress NOW
 Progressive States Network
 Quality Healthcare Coalition
 Rocky Mountain HealthCare Coalition
 Senior Lobby
 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
 AFL-CIO
 United Food & Commercial Workers
 Small Business Majority
 THRIVE: Persons living with HIV/AIDS
 Women's Lobby

The Colorado Consumer

Health Initiative is a *unified statewide* organization of consumers and consumer advocates whose goal is *quality, affordable* health care for everyone.