



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

November 12, 2009

The Honorable Jack Pommer, Chairman
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Pommer:

This letter is in response to the Legislative Request for Information 18 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) which states:

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Information Technology Contracts and Projects, Information Technology Contracts -- The Department is requested to submit updated implementation cost estimates for Senate Bill 08-006 if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approve a state plan amendment to suspend Medicaid eligibility, rather than eliminate eligibility, for confined persons during fiscal year 2009-10.

At this time the Department cannot submit an updated implementation cost estimate for Senate Bill 08-006 since the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has not approved a state plan amendment to suspend Medicaid eligibility, rather than eliminate eligibility, for confined persons. The Department submitted a proposed policy to implement Senate Bill 08-006 to CMS on May 28, 2009 and held a stakeholder meeting, which CMS staff attended, on August 11, 2009. CMS has not formally responded to the Department's proposed policy. The Department's correspondence, meeting presentation and research are available to the public on our Web site at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1244726434978>.

Informal conversations with CMS staff suggest they will not approve our proposed policy since Colorado Medicaid does not have an eligibility category to cover adults without dependent children and therefore there is little opportunity for the Department to actually "suspend" Medicaid eligibility for a majority of the Medicaid population. In reality, the only people who could have their Medicaid eligibility suspended while incarcerated are pregnant females. The Department continues to work with CMS and should have a decision or an alternative proposal in Spring 2010.

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Questions regarding implementation of Senate Bill 08-006 can be addressed to Chris Underwood. His telephone number is 303-866-4766.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Henneberry".

Joan Henneberry
Executive Director

JH:cu

Cc: Senator Moe Keller, Vice-Chairman, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Abel Tapia, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Al White, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Mark Ferrandino, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Kent Lambert, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Brandon Shaffer, President of the Senate
Senator John Morse, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Josh Penry, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Terrance Carroll, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Weissmann, House Majority Leader
Representative Mike May, House Minority Leader
John Ziegler, Staff Director, JBC
Melodie Beck, JBC Analyst
Lorez Meinhold, Senior Policy Analyst for Health Care, Governor's Office
Liza Fox, Policy Analyst for Health Care, Governor's Office
Todd Saliman, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Lisa Esgar, Deputy Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Luke Huwar, Budget Analyst, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
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