

## Cost of Various Colorado Health Care Reform Proposals

In 2007, the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform hired the Lewin Group, a national health economics analysis firm, to evaluate the costs and effectiveness of four proposals moving towards universal health care. The results were clear:

| Proposal  | # Remaining Uninsured | Increase in Total Health Care Spending* |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Better Health Care for Colorado                     | 467,000               | \$595 million                           |
| Solutions for a Healthy Colorado                    | 138,000               | \$271 million                           |
| A Plan for Covering Coloradans                      | 109,000               | \$1.3 billion                           |
| The Colorado Health Services (Single Payer) Program | 0                     | -\$1.4 billion                          |

\* On top of current public/private health spending.

(note: At the time Colorado conducted this study, it had about 792,000 uninsured residents)

### Better Health Care for Colorado

Better Health Care for Colorado would increase access to public programs and to private insurance coverage with low-income subsidies.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Number remaining uninsured              | 467,000       |
| Increase in total health care spending: | \$595 million |

### Solutions for a Healthy Colorado

Solutions for a Healthy Colorado would provide a limited benefit set in the private sector with low-income subsidies, and expands coverage under Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Number remaining uninsured              | 138,000       |
| Increase in total health care spending: | \$271 million |

### A Plan for Covering Coloradans

A Plan for Covering Coloradans would require private pool participation with low-income subsidies and expanded public programs.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Number remaining uninsured              | 109,000       |
| Increase in total health care spending: | \$1.3 billion |

### The Colorado Health Services (Single Payer) Program

The Colorado Health Services Program is a single payer plan that would provide coverage with comprehensive benefits to all residents of the state. Consumers would have their choice of providers and hospitals within the state.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Number remaining uninsured              | 0 |
| Increase in total health care spending: | 0 |

(Instead, this proposal actually *cuts* health spending by \$1.4 billion)

Lewin's Technical Assessment of Health Care Reform Proposals (230 page report):

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=BlueRibbon%2FRIBBLAout&cid=1178305890619&p=1178305890619&pagename=RIBBWrapper>