CIVHC

CENTER FOR IMPROVING
VALUE IN HEALTH CARE

February 21, 2025

To the Colorado Joint Budget Committee:

Colorado is at a turning point in the fight for affordable health care. The decisions made today will determine whether families, businesses, and policymakers have the tools to rein in costs, expand access, and ensure Coloradans' dollars are spent wisely. For more than a decade, the Colorado All Payer Claims Database (CO APCD) has been at the center of that effort, providing the state's most powerful, data-driven resource for improving health care affordability, equity, transparency, and efficiency. With over 1.1 billion claims covering more than 70% of insured Coloradans, the CO APCD isn't just useful, it's essential.

More than a data source, the CO APCD is a cornerstone in Colorado's efforts to create a smarter, stronger, and more affordable health care system. State agencies, legislators, researchers, and employers rely on it to tackle some of the toughest challenges in health care, from lowering costs and improving quality to addressing social determinants of health. Communities and providers depend on CO APCD insights to shape evidence-based solutions and guide cost-effective care to ensure Coloradans receive high-quality, value-based care without unnecessary spending.

Here are a handful of examples of how the CO APCD continues to support better health, better policy, and lower costs for Colorado:

- **Cutting Costs, Bringing Billions to Colorado** – The Division of Insurance's Reinsurance Program is projected to [save Coloradans $493 million on premiums](#) in 2025, while the Colorado Option Plans continue to save families millions of dollars a year. Both programs use CO APCD data to measure impacts and drive key decisions.
- **Eliminating Billing Surprises to Protect Coloradans** – Colorado was a front runner with the [out-of-network legislation (HB 19-1174)](#), which was used as the basis for the Federal No Surprises Act. CO APCD data is used to establish the annual maximum reimbursement rates for the bill, protecting Coloradans from unexpected, devastating surprise bills.
- **Providers Use CO APCD to Provide Better, More Affordable Care** – Colorado Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado used CO APCD data to demonstrate decreased hospitalizations and ED visits as well as decreased costs for [medically complex children](#) using an innovative care management program.
- **Without the CO APCD, We're Just Guessing at What Works** – Research published in JAMA used CO APCD data to determine that [Colorado's insulin copay cap significantly reduced out-of-pocket costs for patients with Type 1 diabetes](#), and lead to better medication adherence and fewer complications.

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- **Ensure Dollars are Spent Wisely** – A study in HealthAffairs used CO APCD to show that Colorado's [extended Medicaid postpartum coverage increases the use of mental health treatment for new moms](#) and reduces costs. The CO APCD is fueling work by world-renowned researchers that evaluates the real-world impact of Colorado's health policies at no cost to Colorado residents.
- **CO APCD Data Empowers Employers and Strengthens Insurance Markets** - The transparency provided by CO APCD price data empowers Colorado's employer insurance alliances to negotiate lower rates with providers, not only saving Coloradans and employers millions of dollars a year on premiums but also [strengthening market competition](#)—health care transparency isn't just about costs, it also helps protect consumers from anti-competitive practices.
- **Keeping Health Care Competitive** – The Urban Institute recognized the [CO APCD as a critical safeguard against hospital monopolies](#), ensuring market competition and preventing unchecked price increases – a tool most states don't have.
- **Keeping Colorado a National Leader** – Colorado's position as one of the healthiest, innovative, and most [transparent](#) states in the nation is furthered through CO APCD data, which empowers innovative solutions to health care challenges.

Defunding the Colorado APCD isn't just a budget decision, it's a step backward for Colorado's health care system and economy. Without this data, policymakers, businesses, and communities will be forced to make decisions blindly, without a reliable, independent source of data to track costs, improve access, or address equity. The CO APCD has been instrumental in making health care more affordable, holding insurers and hospitals accountable, and securing millions in savings for Coloradans. Defunding it now would erase more than a decade of progress, leaving the state without the very tool that makes smart, cost-effective health care policy and practice possible.

The undersigned strongly support the continued viability of the Colorado APCD. Without it, we lose the ability to rely on transparent, independent data to tackle rising health care costs, improve access, and drive policy solutions that work for all Coloradans.

Signed,

Legislators

Kyle Brown – House District 12

Andrew Boesenecker – House District 53

Sean Camacho – House District 6

Lisa Cutter – Senate District 20

Meg Froelich – House District 3

Lindsay Gilchrist – House District 8

Eliza Hamrick – House District 61

Janice Marchman – Senate District 15

Dafna Michaelson Jenet – Senate District 21

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Iman Jodeh – Senate District 29

Mandy Lindsay – House District 42

William Lindstedt – House District 33

Manny Rutinel – House District 32

Gretchen Rydin – House District 38

Katie Stewart – House District 59

Rebekah Stewart – House District 30

Jenny Willford – House District 34

Steven Woodrow – House District 2

Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics – Colorado Chapter - https://aapcolorado.org/

Civitas Networks for Health - www.civitasforhealth.org

Colorado Academy of Family Physicians - https://www.coloradoafp.org/ - 2224 S Fraser St #1, Aurora, CO 80014

Colorado Access - https://www.coaccess.com/ - 11100 E Bethany Dr, Aurora, CO 80014

Colorado Center on Law and Policy - copolicy.org - 789 N. Sherman St., Suite 300 Denver, CO 80203

Colorado Community Managed Care Network/Community Health Provider Alliance - https://www.ccmcn.com/ / https://chpanetwork.com/

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative - https://cohealthinitiative.org/ - 303 E 17th Ave Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, University of Denver - https://coloradolab.org/

Colorado Hospital Association - https://cha.com/ - 1700 Lincoln St., Suite 3030, Denver, Colorado 80203

Colorado Rural Health Center - https://coruralhealth.org/ - 6551 S Revere Pkwy Suite 155, Centennial, CO 80111

Colorado Safety Net Collaborative - https://www.cosafetynet.org/

Contexture - https://contexture.org/ - 2000 S Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80222

DARTNet Institute, Informing Practice, Improving Care - https://dartnet.info/- 12635 E Montview Blvd #136, Aurora, CO 80045

Freedman HealthCare LLC - https://freedmanhealthcare.com/ - 111 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington, MA 01803

Simple Healthcare - https://simple-healthcare.com/

Speak Our Minds: Ending the Youth Mental Health Crisis - https://speakourminds.org/

Valley Health Alliance - https://ourvha.org/ - 520 South Third Street, Carbondale, Colorado

Virginia Health Information - https://www.vhi.org/ - 102 N 5th St, Richmond, VA 23219

Individuals

Lisa Bari - *Chief Executive Officer*, Civitas Networks for Health

Joshua Barocas, MD - *Associate Professor of Medicine*, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Cathy J. Bradley, PhD – *Professor and Dean*, Colorado School of Public Health, Paul A. Bunn, Jr. Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, *Deputy Director*, University of Colorado Cancer Center

Susan L. Calcaterra, MD, MPH, MS - *Associate Professor of Medicine*, Division of Hospital Medicine and Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Colorado, School of Medicine

Heidi Baskfield - *Executive Director*, Speak Our Minds: Ending the Youth Mental Health Crisis

Isabella Chu, MPH - *Associate Director*, Data Core, Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences

Jennifer Easter - *Client Development Executive*, Altera Digital Health

David Ehrenberger, MD - *Primary Care Telehealth Provider*, CirrusMD

Risha Gidwani, DrPH - *Associate Professor*, University of Colorado School of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Public Health, RAND Corporation, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Sarah H. Gordon, PhD, MS - *Assistant Professor*, Health Law, Policy, and Management; *Co-Director*, [BU Medicaid Policy Lab](), Boston University School of Public Health

David Keller, MD, FAAP - *Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics*, University of Colorado, School of Medicine

Ana English McArdle - *Former CEO*, Center for Improving Value in Health Care; *Board Member,* The Joint Commission; *Board Member,* MidwayUSA Foundation

Kevin McAvey - *Managing Director*, Manatt Health

Chris McDowell - *Executive Director*, Valley Health Alliance

Kavita V. Nair, PhD, FAAN - *Professor of Neurology*, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Marcelo Coca Perraillon, PhD - *Associate Professor*, Department of Health Systems, Management & Policy, Colorado School of Public Health; *Co-director,* Population Health Shared Resources (PHSR), University of Colorado Cancer Center

David H. Rehkopf, ScD, MPH - *Associate Professor*, Epidemiology and Population Health; *Associate Professor*, Medicine, Primary Care and Population Health; *Associate Professor*, Health Policy; *Associate Professor*, Pediatrics; *Associate Professor*, Sociology; *Director*, Center for Population Health Sciences; *Co-Director*, Center on Longevity, Stanford School of Medicine

Kyle Russell - *Chief Executive Officer*, Virginia Health Information

Mannat Singh – *Executive Director* – Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Benjamin D. Sommers, MD, PhD - *Huntley Quelch Professor of Health Care Economics*; *Professor of Medicine*, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health; Harvard Medical School

Jay Want, MD - *Retired Executive Director*, Peterson Center on Healthcare; *Former Chief Medical Officer*, Center for Improving Value in Health Care

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John M Westfall, MD, MPH - *Vice President Medical Affairs*, DARTNet Institute

Steve Wilde - *VP of Analytics*, Simple Healthcare

Caleb Wright - *Healthcare Cost Outcomes Director*, Elevance Health