

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R17-1172.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

**SJR17-034**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Aguilar**, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Guzman, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Merrifield, Moreno, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lontine**,

---

**Senate Committees**

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

**House Committees**

---

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-034**

101      **CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERAL "PATIENT PROTECTION AND**  
102            **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT", AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103            **EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO REPEAL OR WEAKEN,**  
104            **AND SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING, THE "PATIENT PROTECTION AND**  
105            **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT" AND SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL**  
106            **EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.**

---

1            WHEREAS, Under the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable  
2            Care Act" (ACA), millions of previously uninsured Americans now have  
3            affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage through the  
4            health insurance exchange marketplaces as well as through the expansion  
5            of the Medicaid program, significantly reducing the uninsured rate; and

6            WHEREAS, In Colorado, over 450,000 individuals have enrolled

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 in the Medicaid expansion and nearly 180,000 individuals have enrolled  
2 in plans offered through the state's health benefit exchange with nearly  
3 60% receiving subsidies worth \$300 million; and

4 WHEREAS, In Colorado, the uninsured rate dropped by more than  
5 half between 2013 and 2015, from 14.3% to 6.7%; and

6 WHEREAS, Most Colorado businesses are small businesses, and  
7 Colorado continues to be a state where people start new businesses daily;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals who are self-employed or whose  
10 employers do not offer them insurance now have affordable health care  
11 options; and

12 WHEREAS, A 2016 study conducted by the Colorado Futures  
13 Center at Colorado State University on the economic effects of the  
14 Medicaid expansion found that the Medicaid expansion in Colorado has  
15 created 31,074 jobs, and provided \$3.82 billion in economic activity; and

16 WHEREAS, Under the ACA, millions of seriously ill individuals  
17 are no longer subject to preexisting condition exclusions or annual or  
18 lifetime health insurance limits; and

19 WHEREAS, Many public health goals, including access to free  
20 immunizations, tobacco cessation products and counseling, well-child  
21 visits, screening mammograms and colonoscopies, and contraceptive  
22 services, are being effectively met without copayments or deductibles  
23 through private health insurance; and

24 WHEREAS, Under the ACA, millions of individuals have access  
25 to support for treatment of mental health and substance use disorders; and

26 WHEREAS, Under the ACA, instead of spending \$2.2 billion on  
27 uncompensated care, which increases costs for everyone, Colorado is  
28 receiving almost \$1 billion in federal support to provide low-income  
29 adults with much needed coverage; and

30 WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has  
31 determined that the ACA will contribute, in the long term, to a reduced  
32 federal deficit; and

1           WHEREAS, Provisions of the ACA require greater accountability  
2 from the health insurance industry regarding costs; and

3           WHEREAS, The ACA has extended the solvency of the Medicare  
4 trust fund; and

5           WHEREAS, The ACA is critical to addressing the biggest  
6 challenges facing our health system, including rising costs, uneven quality  
7 of care, deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health  
8 insurance providers, and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care  
9 providers; and

10           WHEREAS, Repealing the ACA without ensuring a viable  
11 replacement plan would result in nearly 30 million Americans losing their  
12 health insurance coverage, with an estimated 82 percent of those losing  
13 insurance coming from working families, leading to an increase in health  
14 disparities and premature deaths; and

15           WHEREAS, Repealing the ACA without ensuring a viable  
16 replacement plan would also result in a loss of at least \$907 million in  
17 federal Medicaid funding to the state of Colorado; and

18           WHEREAS, The cuts in reimbursement to hospitals and other  
19 providers should be accompanied by stronger mechanisms to ensure the  
20 maintenance of safe staffing and effective care delivery; and

21           WHEREAS, The government must not shift costs to working  
22 families and retirees or endanger the quality of care or limit access to care  
23 by underfunding rural and urban safety-net hospitals and other critical  
24 providers; and

25           WHEREAS, The ACA's payment and delivery reforms are an  
26 important step toward lowering costs, but they should be implemented in  
27 a way that protects the availability of services for our communities; and

28           WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly continues to support  
29 the ACA's goal of securing high-quality, affordable health coverage for  
30 all Americans; and

31           WHEREAS, Seven years after the passage of the ACA, the  
32 Colorado General Assembly reaffirms its commitment to the goal of  
33 affordable, quality health care for all but recognizes that the ACA remains

1 a work in progress; and

2 WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly recognizes that  
3 political pressure could cause some federal policymakers to look again at  
4 cuts and changes to Medicaid as well as the ACA; now, therefore,

5 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*  
6 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

7 (1) That the Colorado General Assembly:

8 (a) Will make comprehensive reform of the health care system an  
9 ongoing priority, supporting proposals to promote efficient, effective  
10 delivery of health care through integrated systems that provide  
11 coordinated and efficient care;

12 (b) Will continue to oppose efforts to undermine the U.S. health  
13 care system by shifting costs and risks to individuals; and

14 (c) Will oppose repealing or weakening and support improving the  
15 "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" and additional efforts to  
16 strengthen access to care.

17 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
18 to Governor John Hickenlooper; Dr. Tom Price, United States Secretary  
19 of the Department of Health and Human Services; Seema Verma,  
20 administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;  
21 President Donald J. Trump; and to the following members of Colorado's  
22 Congressional delegation: Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Cory  
23 Gardner, Representative Jared Polis, Representative Ken Buck,  
24 Representative Ed Perlmutter, Representative Scott Tipton,  
25 Representative Mike Coffman, Representative Doug Lamborn, and  
26 Representative Diana DeGette.