



Amendment 69 Would Double State Budget To Create Untested, Risky Government System

After years of debate and division, health care remains a critical issue for our nation. Across our country and our state, too many people still cannot afford – or gain access to – the health care they need. This is a real issue that impacts real lives.

But regardless of whether you live on the Front Range, the Eastern Plains or the Western Slope; whether you are a Republican or a Democrat or an independent; even regardless of whether you philosophically support a national single-payer health care system or prefer a market-based solution...

All Coloradans can agree that Amendment 69 is not the right answer for Colorado.

Coloradans for Coloradans is a bipartisan statewide and diverse organization of Colorado citizens who have come together to oppose Amendment 69.

Here are some of the best reasons to oppose Amendment 69:

The Government-Run Health Care Plan Would Double The State Budget -- Amendment 69 would levy unprecedented new taxes on every business and worker (as well as on pension and annuity income) to fund a \$25 billion entity – an amount that doubles the current state budget. These new taxes (10 percent shared by employers and employees) would give Colorado the highest state taxes in the nation.

Plan Hurts Small Business, Including Farms and Ranches – Amendment 69 will force virtually all owners of small businesses to pay both the employer’s and employee’s share of the new taxes. That adds up to a total of 10 percent off the top of their annual income.

Amendment 69 Advocates Gloss Over Layers of Questions, Complexities and Complete Unknowns – The backers of the state single-payer system promise a panacea for health insurance challenges. But Colorado would be the first to embark on an untested system that has wide-open questions about costs, coverage, access to care, accountability, regulation, and transparency.

No Guarantees for Coverage – One of the most pressing concerns of many Colorado families is the scope of their health insurance coverage, particularly for those who have worked hard to obtain specialized coverage. Coloradans would lose their existing coverage, and then have to hope that the board of trustees decides to replicate that coverage. If not, then they or their employers could attempt to secure specialty coverage in the open market – which will be extremely expensive, if available at all.

No Qualifications for Governing Board – The amendment specifically states that this new government- run system would not be part of state government and would be run by a 21-member board elected by “members of the plan.” The amendment is silent about whether the government system would be regulated by, or accountable to, the state, our elected officials or the people. There is no requirement that these trustees have any experience in health care, insurance or anything else. There are no requirements for ethnic, gender and age diversity, or balance in political affiliation.

Amendment 69 Would Reverse Colorado’s Vibrant Economic Growth – Colorado stands out as a magnet for new, cutting-edge companies – and the high-quality workers they attract. Amendment 69 would give Colorado the highest state taxes in the nation in return for an untested, expensive and risky government-run health insurance system. Other states will work to capture these companies and jobs when Colorado becomes too expensive and non-competitive.

One State Cannot Change the Nation’s Health Care System – No matter what one’s personal views are on the merits of a single-payer health system for the nation as a whole, it’s naïve to think that one state can set up a single-payer island amidst 49 other states and that this will spark national change.

Embedded In Our Constitution And Can’t Be Easily Changed – Backers of Amendment 69 have irresponsibly decided to make their plan a Constitutional amendment which, if passed, would be exceedingly hard to amend to address flaws with its implementation or operation.

For more information visit www.coloradansforcoloradans.com

Paid for by Coloradans for Coloradans