

Coffman Asks Colorado Department of Health Care Policy how Legislation will Affect State

(WASHINGTON D.C.) —Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) released the following statement after sending a letter to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing asking about the effects Speaker Pelosi’s health care bill, H.R. 3962, would have on Colorado:

“Painfully, Colorado has been forced to make difficult budget cuts to weather the current economic recession. As the House prepares to vote on Speaker Pelosi’s government takeover of health care, I think it is critical to know what her bill will cost our state. In addition to creating a new government run “public option” program, Pelosi’s bill imposes massive unfunded mandates on states to pay for an expansion of Medicaid. Although covering more of the uninsured in our nation is a goal we all share, I cannot and will not support a plan that only exacerbates the fiscal challenges facing Colorado by implementing new unfunded mandates on states.”

Text of the letter is below:

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November 6, 2009

Joan Henneberry, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO. 80203

Dear Ms. Henneberry:

As the healthcare debate in Washington is reaching a climax, I have a question as to how some of the proposed legislative changes will affect the state of Colorado. House Resolution 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, mandates that all states raise Medicaid enrollment to 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL). H.R. 3962 (FMAP) as 91% of this expansion cost in 2015.

According to earlier estimates made by the National Conference of State Legislatures, raising the enrollment eligibility to 133% of the FPL with a FMAP at 85%, as directed in the Senate version of proposed healthcare reform legislation, would create a cost to the state of Colorado of \$1 billion from 2014-2019.

It is apparent then that a greater expansion of eligibility, to 150% of the FPL, will create a hardship on our state budget. For this reason, I request from your office an estimate of the projected obligations that passage of H.R. 3962 would have on the state of Colorado.

Given the immediacy of the vote on this matter, I would appreciate an answer as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

Member of Congress