



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-036

BY SENATOR(S) Hagedorn, Fitz-Gerald, Groff, Keller, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, and Windels;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Boyd, Coleman, Frangas, Merrifield, and Todd.

CONCERNING AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE.

WHEREAS, Coloradans are faced with increasing premiums for health insurance, and health insurance coverage has become increasingly unaffordable for many employers and employees; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans in rural areas of the state face problems associated with insufficient numbers of health care providers and difficulties obtaining health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers and health care providers have faced increased difficulty entering into and maintaining mutually agreeable contracts for the coverage of health care services, and these contracts directly influence both access to, and the affordability of, health care services; and

WHEREAS, The use of credit scoring for insurance underwriting purposes has been a controversial issue, and careful study is needed to determine whether a credit score is predictive of insurance losses; and

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That there is hereby created a legislative committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, which shall meet during the interim after the first regular session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly to study health insurance issues affecting the citizens of Colorado;

(2) That the committee shall consist of ten members who are currently serving as members of the general assembly, as follows:

(a) Three senators appointed by the president of the senate, and two senators appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(b) Three representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(3) That the appointments to the committee shall be made by July 1, 2005, and the committee shall meet at least 4 times between July 1, 2005, and October 15, 2005;

(4) That the committee shall review health insurance issues that affect the citizens of Colorado, which issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Issues surrounding network adequacy, including practice by both participating and nonparticipating providers at in-network facilities; workforce training and adequacy; the encouragement of provider competition based on quality; and certificates of need, alignment of needs, and resources in communities;

(b) The use of credit scoring for insurance underwriting purposes;

(c) Issues surrounding dental insurance;

(d) Rate-setting processes for health care services by third-party carriers, including the use of federal Medicare rates as a benchmark, establishment of rates through negotiations between providers and carriers, the extent to which legal or regulatory standards affect marketplace negotiations, and any other underwriting or accounting practices that might be utilized;

(e) Processes utilized by third-party carriers for determination of covered benefits; preauthorization for services, including medical necessity; retrospective approval or denial of claims; and claims payment practices;

(f) The feasibility of direct contracting between providers and employers; and

(g) A comparison of regulatory requirements between state-regulated health insurance plans and those under the jurisdiction of the federal Department of Labor through the federal "Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974".

(5) That the members of the committee shall be compensated as provided in section 2-2-307, Colorado Revised Statutes, for attendance at meetings of the committee;

(6) That staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services shall be available to assist the committee in carrying out its duties; and

(7) That the actual and necessary expenses, including per diem, incurred in the conduct of the committee shall be approved by the chair of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants drawn as provided by law from moneys allocated to the Legislative Council staff for legislative studies from appropriations made by the General Assembly.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES