



Providing a Voice for Northeast Colorado

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

HHS-2001-3

WHEREAS, a lack of health care results in a higher utilization of health services in the most costly arenas, i.e. emergency rooms, hospitals, and

WHEREAS, the number of Northeast and East Central Coloradoans without health insurance, or inadequate insurance, increases annually, and

WHEREAS, the cost of employer-sponsored health insurance benefits is the fastest growing business expense, and

WHEREAS, health insurance premiums are higher, on average, than metropolitan areas and health plan competition is diminishing resulting in price escalation in Northeastern Colorado, and

WHEREAS, access to quality, affordable health services is a major determinant with respect to attracting employers that pay higher wages and offer benefits, and

WHEREAS, participation in publicly funded insurance programs like SCHIP and Medicaid is often less in rural areas, the State of Colorado should provide additional funding and support for outreach education, and

WHEREAS, Progressive 15 believes all Coloradoan's should have access to quality, affordable health care services, and

WHEREAS, there are economic, demographic and geographic circumstances in rural Colorado that create barriers to access not common to urban areas, and

WHEREAS, often legislative, regulatory and administrative strategies considered to improve access result in negative unintended consequences to rural Colorado, and

WHEREAS, Progressive 15 urges the State of Colorado to assure adequate rural input and participation in the development of access strategies,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Progressive 15 encourages the State of Colorado to enact legislation, which will promote reducing the barriers to the private sector, allowing an increased ability to provide health care insurance to an increased number of uninsured and underinsured Coloradoans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Progressive 15 encourages legislation that will reduce mandates and offers a healthy lifestyle discount, and

- Urges the requirement of a “rural impact study” prior to implementation of significant changes
- Urges the tracking of the implementation of new strategies to determine the impact on rural Colorado
- Urges the development of incentives to attract and retain health professionals and services in rural Colorado
- Urges the flexibility in the implementation where necessary to improve access in rural Colorado

Adopted this 29th day of August 2001
Amended this 22nd day of August 2002
Amended this 16th day of March, 2007