

Colorado Democratic Party Platform, 2008

Health

In the United States, as a matter of social justice, we support a quality universal health care system not tied to employment, as a basic right of all citizens. The health of our citizens is essential to the health of our nation.

To that end, we support guaranteed, quality, affordable and comprehensive health care for all through a not-for-profit single-payer financed system. This is a system that provides patient choice and continuity of care within our system of private providers; is portable and not tied to employment; returns medical decisions to the patient and health care provider (eliminating insurance company interference), and includes strong cost containment measures; and reduces administration costs. We support a National Health Insurance Single Payer Act similar to HR 676. We recommend a plan in Colorado that adopts the principles central to “the Colorado Single-Payer Health Services Plan” submitted to the 208 Health Care Reform Commission.

Comprehensive health care includes, but is not limited to: prescribed drugs, mental health care, dental care, rural health care, home health care, long term care, chronic disease care, end of life/hospice care, preventive medicine, physical and occupational therapy, durable medical equipment, drug abuse rehabilitation, prenatal care, and postnatal material care.

Caveat: Creation of this Single-Payer system shall not preclude the continued existence of forprofit health insurance companies for the purpose of providing supplemental health care insurance coverage.

We also believe our health care system should be focused proactively on health promotion, preventive medicine, public health, disease prevention, as well as primary care.

We support increased funding and accountability for mental health care, and call for government funded providers to have users of services on their staff and governing boards.

We support educating the public about scientifically sound policies regarding STDS/HIV/AIDS and comprehensive programs for their research, prevention, and treatment.

We support increasing availability of hospice care, and home and community based services that address the needs of all, including people with all levels of disabilities of any age.

We support increasing availability of shelters and programs for victims of domestic violence.

We support federally-funded research and investigation involving stem cells for the purpose of seeking treatments and cures for heart disease, diabetes, cancer, diseases of the nervous system and renal failure.

We call for full legalization of use of medical cannabis prescribed for a patient by a physician.

Until the adoption of the Single-Payer Plan makes the following steps unnecessary, we support:

Providing for the long-term solvency of Medicare; full and adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid sufficient to promote the participation of health care providers; ensuring that enrollees in traditional Medicare not subsidize through their premiums enrollees in private Medicare Advantage; amending Medicare part D to close the coverage gap (the “doughnut hole”); and permitting Medicare to negotiate prescription drug costs directly with the pharmaceutical industry.

<http://coloradodems.org/docs/2008PlatformDetailed.pdf>

Adopted unanimously May 17, 2008.