



Support HB19-1320: Nonprofit Hospital Accountability to Colorado Communities

Sponsored by Rep. Chris Kennedy and Rep. Susan Lontine

In exchange for their tax-exemption benefit, valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars, nonprofit hospitals are required to invest back into the communities they serve. But the public has little say over - and little information about - how hospitals invest in their communities. House Bill 1320 requires nonprofit hospitals to engage more formally with the community as part of this decision process and publicize their community health improvement efforts in order to:

- Increase overall hospital spending on services and programs that improve community health;
- Prioritize the health needs that hospitals identify in partnership with the communities they serve;
- Promote hospital investments that address the social and economic determinants of health such as education, workforce development, housing, and access to nutrition;
- Highlight those hospitals that are making meaningful investments in community health and help policymakers, hospitals, and Colorado learn from their success;
- Institutionalize community and state review of the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and community benefit plans and investments of all nonprofit hospitals across the state; and
- Reduce health care costs and the need for taxpayers to fund additional services and social programs by encouraging effective investments in community health.

Overwhelming evidence suggests that social, economic, and environmental factors such as employment, education, and housing are more significant predictors of health than access to care.¹

Elements of House Bill 1320:

- Require nonprofit hospitals and encourage for-profit hospitals to submit uniform community benefit activities reports to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) every year.
- Require HCPF to create an online reporting form for hospitals, make the reported information accessible to the public, and annually submit a hospital community benefit report to the state legislature.
- Create a Hospital Community Accountability Board (“Community Board”) in each Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) region to review and advise hospitals regarding their community benefit activities.
- To minimize the administrative burden on hospitals, build on existing federally required reporting standards and require hospitals to meet just once a year with the Community Board in their region.

Research into state hospital community benefit laws found that state policies that mandated public reporting were the most effective at increasing overall community benefit spending.²

1. The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute, 2018. Available at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/what-is-health>.

2. Johnson, E., et al., State Laws and Nonprofit Hospital Community Benefit Spending, Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, 2018. Available at https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Abstract/publishahead/State_Laws_and_Nonprofit_Hospital_Community.99420.aspx.

Supporters of Nonprofit Hospital Accountability to Colorado Communities

10.10.10	Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
AARP Colorado	Colorado Department of Human Services
DRCOG	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Beacon Health Options	Colorado Fiscal Institute
Bill Lindsay	Healthier Colorado
Colorado Association of Health Plans	Hilltop
Colorado Association of School Executives	Mental Health Center of Denver
Chronic Care Collaborative	Mental Health Colorado
Colorado Business Group on Health	Mesa County Public Health
Colorado Center on Law and Policy	Northeast Health Partners
Colorado Children's Campaign	Re:Vision
Colorado Community Health Network	Senior Lobby
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative	Southwest Center for Independence
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition	Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC