

## **VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 69:**

### **What you need to know about the ColoradoCare Single-Payer Health Care Measure**

#### **▶ BACKGROUND**

In November 2016, voters in Colorado will decide on ballot initiative 69, a constitutional amendment that would establish a single-payer health insurance regime effectively wiping out private health policies and workers' compensation policies for Colorado citizens. Known as "ColoradoCare," the measure would impose a \$25 billion tax increase, thereby doubling the current budget of the State of Colorado. Further, this government-run health insurance system would eliminate the current market-based system.

#### **▶ AT ISSUE**

If passed, ColoradoCare would nearly wipe out Colorado's private market for group health plans, eliminate workers' compensation policies, limit consumer health choices and threaten consumers' quality of care. The initiative would raise \$25 billion in new tax revenue in Colorado, levying unprecedented new taxes on every business and worker. The three-part tax increase would include a 10% tax disproportionately split between the payroll from all employers and the payroll income from employees, and introducing an additional 10% tax on all non-payroll income from all beneficiaries. The amendment would also establish a 21-member Board of Trustees that would have the power to determine any further tax increases.

The initiative is incredibly vague. There are no guarantees for health insurance coverage, forcing Coloradans to give up current coverage in the hopes that the Board will decide to replicate current coverage. Coloradans and their employers can attempt to secure additional coverage, but will have to pay both the tax for the public system and private premiums. The new state-run healthcare system would also replace the existing workers' compensation system. The system would effectively drive out private market involvement in the healthcare system, while also having a grave effect on Colorado's economic growth and job market. Colorado would have the highest state taxes in the nation in return for an untested, expensive and risky government-run health insurance system.

#### **▶ OUR POSITION**

The Council strongly opposes Amendment 69 in the State of Colorado. ColoradoCare threatens to completely dissolve employer-provided health benefits in Colorado by creating a state-operated single-payer health regime. It would erode the market for workers' compensation policies, which could unintentionally erode workplace safety policies. There are no specifics on the quality of care that this Amendment would provide, or what coverage is included. Amendment 69 is a direct assault on our industry and is the latest and most threatening version of the re-emergence of the public option.

#### **▶ HOW YOU CAN HELP**

The Council is aligned with Coloradans for Coloradans to oppose Amendment 69 in the State of Colorado. Coloradans for Coloradans is a bi-partisan statewide coalition in Colorado led by the Denver Chamber of Commerce with the singular goal of defeating Amendment 69 this November. We urge you to support them by endorsing and/or making a donation at [coloradansforcoloradans.com](http://coloradansforcoloradans.com).