

CARING *for*
COLORADO
FOUNDATION

A Health Grantmaker

**Policy Statement on the Affordable Care Act
February, 2017**

Caring for Colorado Foundation believes that access to health care is a human right. We work to ensure access to high quality, affordable, evidence-based and culturally competent health care for Coloradans, especially those facing the greatest barriers to care.

We strongly oppose any efforts to weaken the most effective elements of the Affordable Care Act. Efforts to repeal the ACA without ensuring a viable and immediate replacement plan will put the health of all Coloradans at substantial risk.

Any replacement plan must:

- Ensure that individuals who have gained health insurance coverage under the ACA will maintain their coverage and that all individuals maintain access to the essential benefits, provisions and services created under this law, including but not limited to:
 - Coverage for pre-existing conditions, coverage of preventive services and coverage of young adults on a parent/guardian's insurance.
 - Parity of mental health care with medical care.
 - Access to comprehensive women's health services.
 - Coverage for substance use disorder treatment.
 - Protections for patients' rights and protections with limits on financial exposure.
- Continue efforts to increase health care coverage to uninsured and underinsured people until universal health coverage is achieved.
- Ensure that dental coverage is a requirement for a replacement plan.
- Ensure equal rights to accessible, high quality care that is affordable, effective, safe, timely and patient-centered.
- Actively work to eliminate racial, ethnic, economic and geographic disparities in health service access, utilization and outcomes.
- Ensure that the most vulnerable, and those with the most barriers to care, are able to access affordable, high-quality, culturally competent care.
- Incentivize prevention and wellness activities.

Caring for Colorado remains committed to our mission of promoting health and health care for the people of Colorado, especially for the most vulnerable among us. We stand resolute in our support of the ACA, or a replacement law that builds upon the strengths of the ACA and has at its core the goals to protect and promote the health of **all** Coloradans.