

## Oppose Senate Bill 214

*Colorado's Medicaid program exists to ensure that disability is not a barrier to thriving in community and that poverty is not a barrier to the health care services Coloradans need to concentrate in school, maintain employment, take care of their families, and age with dignity. Senate Bill 214 would undermine those goals with costly changes that will harm Colorado.*

### **SB214 won't help anyone find or keep a job and will increase poverty in Colorado**

- Taking away health coverage actually makes it harder for people with health conditions to maintain employment. Medicaid work requirements don't provide the kinds of supports that allow unemployed people to find work – job training, affordable childcare, and education.
- Conditioning public programs on employment does not move people out of poverty. Programs that have implemented these requirements have found that recipients with barriers to employment never found employment and that most recipients remained poor and some became poorer.

### **SB214 will punish Coloradans who live in parts of the state with struggling economies**

This bill doesn't account for variable economies in different regions of the state. Unemployment rates vary across Colorado with lows of 2.8 in the Denver-metro region to highs of 6.1 in San Miguel County and 5.7 in Huerfano and Pitkin counties.

### **SB214 will threaten the health coverage of people with disabilities**

Many Coloradans living with physical or mental disabilities or chronic disease have not been recognized as disabled by the federal Social Security administration or Colorado's Medicaid program. SB 214 would result in these individuals losing access to services that help them maintain their health and avoid emergency rooms.

### **SB214 will create barriers to treatment for substance abuse in Colorado**

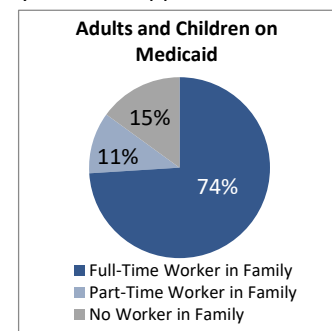
A Medicaid work requirement could prevent people with substance use disorders, such as opioid addiction, from getting care – care that could allow some people to improve their health and join in the workforce.

### **SB214 advances a false narrative about Coloradans living in poverty**

Work requirements rest on the biased assumption that our neighbors who face the greatest barriers to secure employment will work only if they're forced to do so. In reality, Coloradans living below the poverty line work hard to support themselves and their families, often employed in multiple jobs with unpredictable hours earning wages that are insufficient to put food on the table, cover rent and utilities, and pay for doctor's visits without publically-funded support.

### **Most families on Medicaid already work.**

- More than 3 of 4 households on Medicaid have at least one person working, but don't make enough to purchase their own insurance. The majority of these working families say that Medicaid is critical support that allows them to keep working.
- Non-working Coloradans who use Medicaid for their health insurance are either looking for work, are caretakers or students or are ill or disabled. These individuals face substantial barriers to employment that work requirements do not address and that the loss of health care coverage will only exacerbate.



### **SB214 threatens families and the Colorado economy**

The federal government pays 50 cents for every \$1 for Medicaid, pumping more than \$5.8 billion a year into Colorado's economy. The federal government picks up 94 cents of every \$1 for the Medicaid expansion. Medicaid is a major source of funding for safety-net hospitals and nursing homes, particularly in rural areas.

### **SB214 burdens local governments with unnecessary and costly red-tape**

Verifying the work status of adults with Medicaid coverage will add IT and case management cost burdens to counties. Other states are balking at the cost:

- KY estimated that it would cost \$187 million in the first 6 months to implement work requirements
- OH estimated that that would cost local governments \$380 million over 5 years in case management costs

### **The Lifetime Limits for Medicaid in SB214 will Cause Families to Lose Health Coverage**

A five-year lifetime limit on Medicaid coverage would restrict access to health insurance coverage for people across Colorado. Health coverage improves health and educational outcomes and access to care. The loss of health coverage for kids and their parents will cause financial stress that will have a negative impact on child health and development.

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## **List of Organizations Opposed to SB214**

American Academy of Pediatrics – Colorado Chapter

Asian Pacific Development Center

Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living

Center for Health Progress

Children’s Hospital Colorado

Chronic Care Collaborative

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Children’s Campaign

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Colorado Community Safety Net Clinics

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Colorado School Medicaid Consortium

Servicios de la Raza

Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC