



**COLORADO**

Governor Jared Polis

May 31, 2019

The Honorable Colorado General Assembly  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly:

Today I signed House Bill 19-1176, “Concerning the enactment of the “Health Care Cost Savings Act of 2019” that creates a task force to analyze health care financing systems in order to give the general assembly findings regarding the systems’ costs of providing adequate health care to residents of the state, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.”

House Bill 19-1176 (“HB 19-1176”) directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (“HCPF or department”) to create the Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force (“task force”) for the purpose of developing comprehensive fiscal analyses of current and alternative health care financing systems. The task force, comprised of legislators, Cabinet members, and key stakeholders, is given the task of contracting with an analyst to undertake the work described in the bill, including a detailed analysis of three different health financing systems.

We are extremely enthusiastic about the subject matter addressed in HB 19-1176 and thank the sponsors for their commitment to universal access to health care. However, I am concerned that a thorough and comprehensive set of evaluations of the scale contemplated by the bill requires more resources than have been appropriated.

The bill includes a total appropriation of \$92,649 for fiscal year 2019-2020, plus \$7,351 for per diem expenses for legislators. Our concern is that, based on the fiscal note, this amount is insufficient to hire an analyst to complete this project. We note that the General Assembly’s nonpartisan legislative council reported the anticipated cost of the work outlined in the bill is \$757,775 over three years.

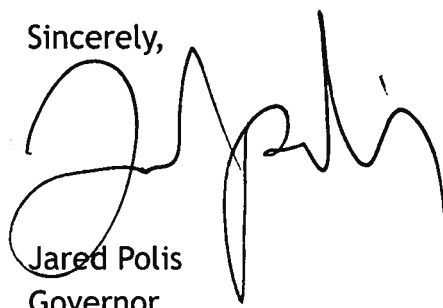


I hope the department will be able to complete this study with the resources provided. However, because achieving a quality outcome is most critical, I have directed the department to report by October of this year on whether the current appropriation is adequate to achieve the objectives outlined in HB 19-1176, whether gifts grants and donations have been forthcoming, or if additional funds should be requested in the upcoming legislative session.

I am also directing that any solicitation for a bid for an analysis explicitly indicate the funding that is available, and include estimated costs for completing the project. HCPF should work with stakeholders and the task force to develop a scope of work and a proposed budget for the project. HCPF should also be prepared to move forward on implementation as soon as sufficient funds are raised through gifts, grants, and donations or appropriated by future general assemblies.

Again, we want to thank the sponsors and stakeholders for their hard work and commitment to universal access to health care. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to make progress on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared Polis', written in a cursive style.

Jared Polis  
Governor