
**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BEFORE THE COLORADO HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON HB25-1297: HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY
ENTERPRISE UPDATE**

April 24, 2025
Hunter Nelson, Colorado Director
Small Business Majority

Thank you, Chair Lindstedt and members of the Committee:

My name is Hunter Nelson and I'm the Colorado Director for Small Business Majority, a small business organization with a mission to empower America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. I'm pleased to provide testimony in support of HB25-1297, legislation that would increase the funding available to the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) to sustain the positive relief from the Reinsurance Program, to continue covering Coloradans through the OmniSalud program and to provide subsidies to low-income Coloradans.

Health coverage is increasingly unaffordable for [many](#) small business owners and the HIAE helps lower costs for the individual market. Its subsidies lower the cost of monthly premiums, putting affordable health coverage in reach for many Coloradans. As the individual market in Colorado reaches [record enrollment](#), this benefits the small business owners—including self-employed small business owners—and their employees that utilize the individual market to purchase health insurance. Nationally, [more than](#) half of all Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace enrollees nationwide are small business owners, self-employed individuals or small business employees.

This legislation would increase funding for HAIE by authorizing an increase to the health insurance affordability fee assessed and collected from insurance carriers by up to one percentage point to implement and administer the HIAE. It also authorizes the enterprise to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations for the purposes of the HIAE.

With the potential expiration of the enhanced Premium Tax Credits (PTCs) at the federal level this year, it's more important than ever that we fund programs that make coverage more affordable for Coloradans. This is especially important for those in the small business community who can't access group coverage because of the cost. If this legislation does not pass, the HAIE would lose the ability to fund a meaningful premium wrap to mitigate enrollment losses resulting from federal subsidies ending. Premiums would drastically increase for Colorado families and 9,000 undocumented Coloradans—including undocumented entrepreneurs—could lose coverage through OmniSalud. This program is critical to their wellbeing: it both protects them from the burden of unexpected medical costs and allows them to care for their health so they can instead focus on starting and growing their small businesses.

Furthermore, if this bill does not pass, the HIAE would lose the ability to ensure compliance with the Hyde Amendment, which can be accomplished using HIAE funds to provide abortion coverage support. Women entrepreneurs [overwhelmingly believe](#) (92%) that the freedom to decide if and when to have children is extremely important, and three-quarters agree that all women should have access to reproductive health, including abortion care and birth control.

By passing the legislation, you would increase the funding available to the HIAE to sustain the positive relief from the Reinsurance Program. We urge you to continue covering Coloradans through the

OmniSalud program, maintain abortion access and ensure that low-income small business owners and employees can receive subsidies so they can afford to access care.

Sincerely,

Hunter Nelson
Colorado Director
Small Business Majority