



November 8, 2024

Michael Conway
Colorado Insurance Commissioner
Colorado Division of Insurance
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Comments in support of Draft Proposed New Regulation 4-2-XX: Concerning Transparency in Coverage Reporting Requirements

Dear Commissioner Conway:

As a leading representative of more than 4,000 small businesses in Colorado, Small Business Majority writes today to comment on the Draft Proposed New Regulation 4-2-XX: Concerning Transparency in Coverage Reporting Requirements.

Small Business Majority is a small business organization that empowers Colorado's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. Access to affordable, quality healthcare is crucial to small businesses' ability to compete with large corporations for talented employees, in addition to ensuring entrepreneurs and their employees get the care they need. Our [research](#) found that small businesses are struggling with rising healthcare costs, with 24% of small businesses that offer health insurance to employees dropping health coverage altogether. As part of our commitment to support public policy solutions that benefit the small business ecosystem, we want to highlight the importance of implementing SB24-080 to bring down costs for Coloradans.

The rising costs of health coverage and prescription drugs are making them inaccessible and unaffordable for Colorado small business owners and their employees. Due to a lack of transparency and fairness in these costs, our current market does not favor small business owners who are already struggling with other cost increases as well as inflation. We need checks and balances to ensure a fair and healthy market. The federal government is stepping in to ensure more transparency in these costs, hold carriers accountable and deter them from deploying unfair and deceptive practices. SB24-80 aligns Colorado with these new laws, requiring carriers in the state to submit information on their negotiated rates and prescription drug trends to the Division of Insurance (DOI). By requiring carriers to comply with federal price transparency laws, small business owners and consumers can now make more informed decisions when it comes to their healthcare choices. Additionally, price transparency encourages competition between carriers, contributing to lower costs for entrepreneurs and their employees.

We support the implementation of draft proposed new regulation 4-2-XX and ask that it be finalized as quickly as possible. It will hold insurance carriers accountable for creating an unlevelled playing field in healthcare pricing, improving healthcare access and affordability for small businesses.

Thank you,

Hunter Nelson
Colorado Director, Small Business Majority