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As part of Colorado's "Saving Cities Millions"...

La Plata County could save  
**\$3.4 MILLION ANNUALLY (71%)** on employee health insurance

if voters approve **Amendment #69 ColoradoCare**

### Why the big savings?

A universal health care system—private providers paid with combined funds—reduces layers of administrative costs; allows for bulk purchasing of drugs and medical equipment; and reduces fraud and duplication.

**How are savings calculated?** An economic analysis of health care spending in Colorado has calculated that comprehensive health coverage for every resident could be paid for with pre-tax payroll premiums of 6.67% for employers; 3.33% for employees; (and 10% on non-payroll income).

A. Cost of health care insurance for La Plata County, 2014 budget <sup>1</sup>:

Health Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,539,399
Medical Portion (59% <sup>2</sup> ) of Workers' Comp Premiums	<u>313,524</u>
Total Cost for Health Care Insurance	\$ 4,852,923

B. Cost with ColoradoCare:

payroll, 2014 budget	\$ 21,103,227
ColoradoCare Employer Premiums are 6.67% of Payroll	<u>x .0667</u>
Total Cost with ColoradoCare	\$ 1,407,585

The difference between A and B means **a saving to La Plata County of \$3,445,338** and a reduction in the cost of health care coverage from 23% of payroll to a simple 6.67% with the medical portion of workers' comp included.

Under ColoradoCare, employees would pay just 3.33% of salary for family health coverage--a significant decrease for many employees. If employers took the option of paying part or the entire employee share at the full 10%, La Plata County would still save \$2,742,601.

#### Additional savings not measured include:

- Employer time spent administering health care benefits and the medical portion of workers' comp
- Employee work time spent learning about the employer's health plan and workers' comp medical

**Good news for employees:** New hires and part-time employees would have health care coverage for themselves and their dependents and would be able to continue care with the health professionals of their choice. There would be no deductibles. With modest copays, which could be waived for financial difficulty, and no co-pays for designated primary and preventive care ColoradoCare out-of-pocket expenses would be substantially less than with existing policies. ColoradoCare medical coverage is comprehensive, and would include mental health and designated dental, vision, and hearing benefits.

<sup>1</sup> Costs for La Plata County provided by Diane Sorensen, Finance Director, 12/3/13.

<sup>2</sup> This figure comes from a 2008 study by the National Council on Compensation Insurance focusing on the rising cost of health care as opposed to other components of Workers' Compensation--e.g., loss of wages, compensation for permanent bodily injury, disability. Workers' Compensation premiums reported by Ms. Sorensen were \$531,397.