



**COLORADO**  
Gov. John Hickenlooper

June 30, 2017

Dawn Russell  
ADAPT  
1208 South Logan Street  
Denver, CO 80210

Julie Reiskin  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
The Empire Building  
1385 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 610-A  
Denver, CO. 80222  
June 30, 2017

Dawn Russell  
ADAPT  
1208 South Logan Street  
Denver, CO 80210

Dear Ms. Russell and Ms. Reiskin:

Thank you for contacting the Governor and me about your concerns with the Better Care Reconciliation Act, the U.S. Senate's bill to overhaul health care. I sincerely appreciate you sharing your concerns about this bill and its cuts to Medicaid. The Governor and I share your and your organizations' commitment to protecting our state's most vulnerable citizens.

We have deep concerns about the Senate bill and have asked Senators Gardner and Bennet to vote against this bill. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing estimates that, when fully implemented, this bill would cut \$1.5 billion annually from our Medicaid budget. Cuts of this size would force the state to make impossible decisions about the types of benefits we can offer or who will be eligible for them.

Like all Coloradans, people with disabilities deserve to live the lives they want, residing and working in the community. Our administration is committed to ensuring that individuals have access to the appropriate community based care and supports, especially those provided through Medicaid. In 2012, the Governor created the Office of Community Living in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to help meet the growing need for long-term services and supports. In 2014, our administration issued Colorado's Community Living Plan to help individuals who want to transition from institutional settings to community settings and to ensure that individuals living in community settings



can do so in a stable, dignified, and productive manner. We are committed continuing our home and community based services programs through Medicaid and working to make sure that Coloradans who need these services have access to them.

Along with a bipartisan group of Governors from around the country, the Governor and I continue to focus on finding bipartisan solutions that will help make health care more affordable for all Coloradans. We have asked Congressional leaders to focus on creating a more affordable and stable individual health insurance market, which includes many issues we can all agree need fixing.

Our office is happy to discuss these issues further. Please don't hesitate to contact Kyle Brown, Policy Director for Health and Human Services, ([kylem.brown@state.co.us](mailto:kylem.brown@state.co.us) and 303.866.5361) with any questions or concerns.

Thank you again for your commitment to Colorado. I look forward to working with you going forward.

Sincerely,

Donna Lynne  
Lieutenant Governor

