

= SCAHU – Southern Colorado Association of Health Underwriters =
*Southern Colorado Media's expert resource for
health insurance, life insurance & Medicare information and legislation*

= PRESS RELEASE =
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HEALTH CARE REFORM STALLED? NOT IN COLORADO.
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IS HAPPENING IN YOUR BACK YARD.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: This critical bill is going to be discussed Monday, February 22 at the state capitol. We are hopeful you will find this story of interest to your audience, and that we can discuss it with you soon.

Although the speed of national health care reform has slowed down tremendously, the legislative wheels have been churning fast and furious in Colorado – **and a new bill would directly and adversely affect Coloradoans.**

Since the legislature convened in early January over 40 health care reform bills have been introduced between the House and Senate. Among those is **House Bill 1168**, which would prevent a health insurance company from being able to recover costs it paid on behalf of an injured person if the loss was caused by a third party.

For example, when a car accident occurs, most of the time the at-fault driver's liability insurance will reimburse the injured party and their health insurer. If health plans are not reimbursed by at-fault third parties, the cost of those additional thousands spent will count as costs that can increase health insurance premiums.

"House Bill 1168 doesn't protect the consumer" said Sharlene Yabe of the Southern Colorado Assoc. of Health Underwriters (SCAHU). "It would increase litigation, add to the burden of Colorado's court dockets, delay the payments back to the injured parties and increase their premiums. It's interesting this bill was introduced by the Colorado Trial Lawyer's Association, who stand to benefit greatly from increased litigation."

"People need to contact their legislators to oppose insurance reform bills that are not geared at lowering the cost of care, which is why health insurance becomes more unaffordable every year. **A bill like HB 1168 has nothing to do with responsible, meaningful or effective health care reform.**

To find out who your Colorado legislator is, go to www.votesmart.org on the internet.

For more information on Colorado's health insurance bills that will directly impact insurance premiums, please contact Sharlene K. Yabe at 719-210-2160 or Cindy Sovine-Miller of the Colorado State Assoc. of Health Underwriters at 720-290-5327.