



Dear Senator Gardner,

As the Affordable Care Act has taken effect, millions of Coloradans have been harmed through the collapse of the state's failed Obamacare co-op, skyrocketing premiums and more than 300,000 cancelled health care plans. A government-mandated healthcare system remains a highly contentious debate that has now landed on the November 2016 Colorado ballot in the form of Amendment 69, so-called "single-payer" healthcare.

Despite Obamacare's glaring failures, a single-payer healthcare system remains a primary goal of many on the left, such as your colleague Senator Bernie Sanders. Supporters of single-payer often argue that Obamacare simply did not go far enough, and they seek to remedy that in Colorado by imposing a government-run system with this initiative.

The price of this government takeover of Colorado's health sector would not be cheap. Amendment 69 would cost Colorado taxpayers an estimated \$25 billion, supposedly paid for with a new 10 percent, across-the-board state payroll tax; in other words, *a massive tax hike on the middle-class* (and if our experience with Obamacare and its state exchanges are a harbinger, this cost is grossly underestimated).

As you may know, Senator Sanders' home state of Vermont – a well-known haven for progressive economic policy - abandoned the goal of single-payer healthcare last year amid concerns about the plan's whopping \$2 billion price tag – which would have required significant tax increases. Even Vermont's governor, who ran on single-payer, conceded that the plan was bad for Vermont.

Many in Vermont also feared that the quality of healthcare would diminish significantly via a single-payer system. In 'single-payer' Canada and Great Britain alone there are thousands of patients languishing on waiting lists for treatment, many of whom are forced to wait months before they can see a doctor. Here in the United States, we have already witnessed the destructive effects of a single payer system with the scandals that have rocked the Veterans Administration, subjecting thousands of veterans to shocking mistreatment, mismanaged care, and even death.

With such a monumental decision facing Colorado voters next year, we deserve to know the position of our statewide leaders on this issue.

**Senator Gardner, do you support or oppose Amendment 69, which would impose a one-size-fits-all, multibillion dollar single-payer healthcare system in Colorado?**

Sincerely,

Tim Phillips  
President  
Americans for Prosperity

Michael Fields  
Colorado State Director  
Americans for Prosperity