

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Kayla Arnesen, APR
Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Direct: 970-244-7967 • Cell: 970-250-4060

Rocky Mountain Health Plans will Continue Offering Medicare Plans on the Western Slope Indefinitely

(GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.) – In today's *Daily Sentinel*, a story by reporter Gary Harmon covers new legislation submitted by U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, D-Colorado.

The article states that, without Bennet's legislation passing, Rocky Mountain Health Plans would be required to withdraw our Medicare Cost Plan from the Western Slope at the end of this year (2009).

Rocky Mountain Health Plans wants the Grand Junction community, and particularly our Medicare Members in Western Colorado, to know that, in fact, Rocky Mountain's Medicare plans in Western Colorado are not in any jeopardy. We have been serving Medicare beneficiaries in Western Colorado for 35 years and plan to continue serving Medicare beneficiaries for at least 35 more years.

Background

Under current law, Rocky Mountain Health Plans is allowed to continue our Medicare Cost Plan throughout Colorado through December 2010 and on the Western Slope beyond 2011.

We support this legislation, because if it does not pass, Rocky Mountain Health Plans would be required to change the type of Medicare plans we offer, or we would need to leave certain Front Range counties, after December 2010.

This legislation that Senator Bennet has introduced, requests a continuation of all Cost Contracts across the country, including the Rocky Mountain Health Plans Cost Contract, for an additional three years. This would allow Rocky Mountain Health Plans to continue to offer our current Medicare plans throughout Colorado through January 2014.

We have every expectation that this legislation will pass because similar legislation has passed before. For example, in December 2007 and again in July 2008, legislation was passed that extended Medicare Cost Contract Plans.

(more)

2-2-2 – Medicare Cost Contract

“We appreciate Senator Bennet’s effort to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries throughout the state continue to have the same Medicare choices as those in Western Colorado. Your choices here in Western Colorado will not change. One of our core principles is to offer Medicare plans throughout Colorado and it is our intent to continue beyond 2011,” says Steve ErkenBrack, president, Rocky Mountain Health Plans.

About Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Rocky Mountain Health Plans is a Colorado-based, not-for-profit organization that is uniquely positioned to understand the needs of Colorado’s health care consumers. Founded in 1974, Rocky Mountain provides medical benefit plans and services to nearly 165,000 enrollees. It offers a wide range of options including PPO, HMO, and Health Savings Account-eligible plans. Medical plans can be fully-insured, fully-insured with cost sharing options, or self-funded. Rocky Mountain is the first Western Slope employer to receive the Well Workplace award from the Wellness Councils of America and has a thirty-year history of serving businesses, individuals, families, Medicare and Medicaid-eligible persons, and children who receive care under the Child Health Plan Plus program. For more information, contact Rocky Mountain Health Plans at 800-843-0719 or visit www.rmhp.org..

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