



CACI COLORADO ASSOCIATION
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

NEWS RELEASE

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CACI Commends “208 Commission” Report, Begins to Analyze Recommendations *Ideas to be Filtered through CACI’s Policy Principles*

Denver--The Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI), the statewide chamber of commerce, today commended the Blue-Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform for its hard work over many months to analyze the state’s health-care system and develop recommendations, which the Commission presented today to the Colorado General Assembly.

CACI particularly lauds the Commission for building its recommendations upon the existing system and addressing the chief concern of the business community: the rising costs of health care. While health-insurance premiums continue to rise, a significant number of Colorado companies struggle to find affordable ways to provide health-care coverage for their workers.

The CACI HealthCare Council and its Steering Committee will study the Commission’s recommendations and, in particular, health-care legislation that is introduced during this session of the Colorado General Assembly. The Council recommends policy positions to the CACI Board of Directors, which decides CACI’s policy positions and directs its lobbying at the State Capitol.

CACI believes that increasing flexibility for employers and minimizing state-imposed mandates and regulations will strengthen the private-public health-care system. Specifically, CACI:

- Opposes measures that require employers to provide health-care coverage for their workers and dependents;
- Opposes measures that mandate additional coverage in health-care insurance plans for certain illnesses or conditions not now required to be included in such policies; and
- Opposes the weakening of ERISA by the U.S. Congress under the guise of giving the states more flexibility.

Four members of the so-called “208 Commission,” named after SB-208, which the legislature passed in 2006 to establish the Commission, are members of the CACI HealthCare Council’s Steering Committee:

1. Ralph Pollock, Member, CACI Board of Directors, and Chair of the CACI HealthCare Council and its Steering Committee;
2. Steve Summer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Hospital Association;
3. Steve Erkenbrack, Chair of the Club 20 Health Care Committee; and
4. Bill Lindsay, President, Benefits Group, Lockton Companies of Colorado, who chaired the 208 Commission.

Established in 1965, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry is the statewide chamber of commerce. With 478 members statewide, employing nearly 200,000 workers, CACI’s mission is to champion a healthy business environment. To achieve this mission, CACI has key four objectives: (1) maintain & improve the cost of doing business; (2) advocate a pro-business state government; (3) increase the quantity of educated, skilled workers; and (4) strengthen Colorado’s critical infrastructure (roads, water, telecommunications and energy).

CACI’s members include individual businesses, trade associations, local chambers of commerce and local economic development organizations. CACI’s lobbying team works with state lawmakers to promote business-friendly laws, and has a successful track record of securing legislation that benefits all Colorado businesses. CACI is a non-profit organization funded solely by its members. For more information, visit the CACI Web site at www.cochamber.com or call 303.831.7411.

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