



Farley's Features: December 19

Bridging research and policy



Welcome to *Farley's Features*, the Farley Health Policy Center's monthly newsletter, focusing on key health policy issues that span primary care, behavioral health, and public health practice. Our interprofessional team invites your perspectives as we pursue health policy research, translation, implementation, and education.

Message from the Farley Center

Dear Alison,

Season's greetings from the Farley Health Policy Center!

We wish you a happy, healthy, and warm holiday season. We look forward to your continued partnership in 2025.

- Cheers from the Farley Center Team



Photo credit: Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, FAAFP

Recent Work and Publications



Designing Health Policy

On Wednesday, December 10th, the Farley Health Policy Center convened Colorado legislators for their annual Designing Health Policy event, a half-day, nonpartisan forum designed to foster collaborative learning and equip policymakers with actionable insights on health and health care in Colorado. This year's session was shaped by conversations with legislators in advance, ensuring the agenda reflected their priorities and questions.

Colorado's health care system faces pressing challenges, from rising costs and coverage gaps to rural access and behavioral health needs. Through nonpartisan education, trusted data resources, and practical tools, Farley aims to strengthen legislators' capacity to design evidence-based health policy that is responsive to the needs of Coloradans.

Legislative Updates Resume in January

The Farley Center will continue to offer monthly legislative updates during the 2026 session from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, January through April, and the third Monday in May. These sessions are educational updates about relevant health legislation debated in the 2026 Colorado General Assembly for University and partner institution professionals and students. If you attended during the 2025 summer special session update, you should have details for the 2026 session on your calendar. If not, please register using [this Zoom registration form](#). After you receive your confirmation, add meeting details to your calendar to attend. Questions? Email FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu.



First Snow

A contingent of Farley Center team members braved long lines for hot chocolate and scarves to celebrate the first snow at Anschutz campus. Hannah Crook, De'Janae' Guillory-Williams, Alison Reidmohr, and Vanessa Case are pictured, photo credit to Larry Green.

What We're Reading

Maternal and Reproductive Health

[Influencers made millions pushing 'wild' births – now the Free Birth Society is linked to baby deaths around the world](#) from the Guardian examines the growing trend of unassisted childbirth promoted online and its connection to preventable infant deaths worldwide.

[Mike Johnson works in secret to strip IVF health coverage from defense bill](#) from MS Now News reports on legislative efforts that could eliminate IVF coverage for military families, sparking debate over reproductive rights and health equity.

[Behind the fight over expanding disability parking placards for pregnancy](#) from The 19th covers a policy proposal aimed at improving mobility and reducing health risks for pregnant individuals during late stages of pregnancy.

State Health Policy

[Health insurance prices in Colorado set to soar for 225,000 people as Senate fails to extend subsidies](#) from the Colorado Sun describes the impending doubling of health care premiums on the Colorado health insurance exchange market.

[How Medicaid became such a drag on Colorado's state budget](#) from the Colorado Sun highlights how surging Medicaid costs are reshaping Colorado's fiscal priorities and forcing tough decisions on state programs.

[With billions on the line, Colorado prepares for the rural health care "Hunger Games"](#) from the Colorado Sun gives an update on the Rural Health Transformation Grant process as it pertains to Colorado.

[Policy strategies for state Medicaid agencies to advance community health and well-being](#) from Millbank Memorial Fund reports on how states can still advance whole-person care and strengthen health system connections by leveraging managed care and value-based payment, even as federal funding declines.

Vaccines and Public Health

[Doctors warn delaying hepatitis B shot for newborns could revive a deadly threat](#) from NPR covers new hepatitis B vaccine guidelines for infants and the political challenges posed by anti-vaccine rhetoric.

[Colorado aims to protect vaccine access as Trump administration casts doubt on safety](#) from PBS details state-level strategies to maintain immunization programs amid growing skepticism at the federal level.

[Inside RFK Jr.'s first nine months in the Trump administration](#) from STAT explores the impact mass layoffs, decreased research funding, and federal reform led by current U.S. Health Secretary.

Health Systems

As 2025 comes to a close, [Health Policy in 2026](#) from KFF Health News predicts key issues in health policy for the U.S. in the coming year.

[A New England Journal of Medicine interview with Robert Huckman](#) discusses the dearth of successful business models aimed at keeping people healthy.

[Republicans still can't agree on a health plan](#) from KFF Health News reports on the ACA subsidies debate in the Senate, vaccine policy priorities, and opioid settlement payments.

Health, Technology, and Safety

[Faulty glucose monitors linked to 7 deaths and more than 700 injuries, FDA warns](#) from STAT investigates failures in widely used diabetes monitoring devices, raising urgent questions about oversight and patient safety.

[Doctor and author turned social media creator: Former Colorado public official on posting science-based health content](#) from CPR explores the influence of misinformation on health behaviors and offers strategies for improving digital health literacy. Dr. Tista Ghosh, featured in the article, also presented to the Farley Center at our annual retreat on best practices in science and health communication.

[2025 KFF Marketplace Enrollees Survey](#) from KFF details consumer experiences with health insurance marketplaces, including affordability concerns and enrollment challenges.

Holiday Activity

[Denver holiday lights map 2025](#) from The Denver Post provides a comprehensive guide to the city's most dazzling holiday light displays for seasonal celebrations.

The Farley Center's December health policy journal club focused on the growth of health misinformation — a challenge with profound implications for public trust, policy design, and health outcomes. See all readings available at the [health policy journal club web page](#).

Subscribe to Farley's Features

Farley's Features is a monthly spotlight on critical and timely health policy issues from the Farley Health Policy Center. We focus on health policy research, translation, implementation, and education. We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu with any questions or comments about *Farley's Features* and our work in general.



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