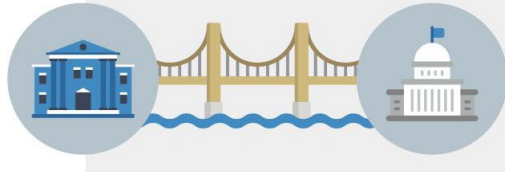




Farley's Features: July 25

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,

In the aftermath of the passage of the [federal budget resolution](#), the health policy world is reeling. From cuts to food assistance to the elimination of clean energy tax credits to substantial changes to health care programs, this bill [will have far-reaching consequences](#) to Coloradans' health. Cuts in Medicaid will result in loss of coverage for millions of Americans, and [Colorado insurers predict](#) a 28% increase in health insurance premiums next year, not including the cost of lost marketplace subsidies.

As health policy researchers, we at the Farley Center have not been silent about these impacts. Before the bill's passage, we published [an op-ed in the Colorado Sun](#) about the importance of protecting Medicaid in our state. Before that, I [wrote in Colorado Politics](#) with my colleagues about the damage this will do to rural health care infrastructure. And after its passage, I coauthored [a piece in the Conversation](#) about the specifics of the bill, addressing the insufficient stop-gap measure of the newly created Rural Health Transformation Fund.

My ongoing work with the [Rural Futures](#) collaborative has renewed my commitment to protecting rural hospitals. These organizations provide critical health care services and are economic engines for their communities and regions. The saying goes that when the local rural hospital dies, the community it serves isn't far behind. It isn't too late to save them.

Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCD, FAAPF

State Policy Director

Farley Publications

In their new Health Affairs Forefront piece, [Public Health Law Vacuums: A Present And Future Threat](#), Farley's Education Director, Daniel Goldberg, PhD, and coauthor Rick Weinmeyer, JD, PhD, MPhil, MA, examine how governmental actions can intentionally limit public health authority. They highlight instances where legal and legislative actions have created dangerous policy conditions, arguing that basic principles of public health ethics mandate active governance.

[Rural hospitals will be hit hard by Trump's signature spending package](#) from the Conversation, by Farley's State Policy Director, Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCD, FAAPF, and Kevin J. Bennett, PhD, breaks down how over \$1 trillion in projected Medicaid cuts from the new spending package will lead to reduced services, staff layoffs, and accelerated hospital closures in rural communities.

Dr. Hughes also coauthored a commentary in the Lancet Primary Care titled [Primary care: a crucial catalyst to build a healthier USA](#). This commentary responds to the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) commission report calling chronic disease prevention in children, pointing out the potential for well-resourced primary care to address this problem.

Partner Publications

[When are health professionals ethically obligated to engage in public advocacy?](#) In the Lancet provides timely commentary from our partners at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities for health professionals and coauthors on health professionals' obligation to protect patients from government abuse.

What We're Reading

Healthcare Policy & Systems

[America's most socially responsible hospitals, 2025](#) from the Lown Institute Hospital Index highlights hospitals demonstrating strong performance in health equity, value of care, and patient outcomes, with Denver Health and UC Health being recognized in this ranking.

[NEJM Interview: Erin Fuse Brown on the manifestations and effects of corporatization in health care](#). from The New England Journal of Medicine discusses the impacts of higher levels of integrated control by consolidated profit-seeking enterprises throughout the health care industry.

[Insurers fight laws in states like Colorado restricting surprise ambulance bills](#), from The Colorado Sun, discusses a measure passed by the Colorado Legislature aiming to protect consumers from unexpected out-of-network charges, that was ultimately vetoed by the governor.

[State health care cost growth targets: Moving from aspiration to evidence to action](#) from Health Affairs Forefront explains how data analysis from state health care cost growth target programs is driving new policy initiatives.

[ACA health insurance will cost the average person 75% more next year](#), research shows from Morning Edition explains why ACA health insurance premiums are set to nearly double.

Federal Budget Bill and Transition

[One big beautiful special session? Colorado lawmakers still aren't sure](#) from CPR describes an estimated billion dollars a year cost for the federal budget bill once fully implemented, but delays in implementation may allow for the state to manage this problem during the regular session.

[Health provisions in the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill](#) from KFF details the significant changes to Medicaid in the 2025 budget bill signed by President Trump on July 4, including potential impacts on eligibility and funding.

[What experts think of the \\$50 billion rural health fund in Trump's big bill](#) from PBS Newshour explores the provisions of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" related to rural health, including funding for rural hospitals and potential impacts on healthcare access in these areas.

[Stories from the field: The impact of federal funding cuts on population health researchers](#) from Millbank Memorial details how federal funding cuts are significantly jeopardizing the careers and ongoing research of population health scientists, particularly those focused on health equity.

[Global cost of silencing science](#) from the BMJ articulates the scientific community's duty to resist the politicization of science following the federal transition.

Behavioral Health

[Blueprint for a national prevention infrastructure for behavioral health disorders](#) from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine outlines a comprehensive plan for building and sustaining an infrastructure focused on preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders.

[Colorado Medicaid to pay for collaborative work to bring mental health into primary care](#) from the Denver Post describes a care integration approach making headway in Colorado.

[GOP tax law will increase overdose deaths by 1,000 each year](#), analysis finds from STAT predicts 156,000 people will lose access to addiction treatment.

The Farley Center's June health policy journal club continued to examine the evolving healthcare landscape under the Trump Administration. They discussed children's health, threats to science, and the budget reconciliation bill. See all readings available [on the health policy journal club web page](#).

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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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