



October 25, 2024

Bridging research and policy



From the Director's Desk



Dear Alison,

Welcome to the first edition of Farley's Features, our newly updated monthly newsletter from the Farley Health Policy Center. We are a team of medical and behavioral health providers, public health and policy professionals, economists, scientists, educators, and learners. Together, we pursue health policy research, translation, implementation, and education.

Let's be honest, as we step into November there is really only one thing on our minds. In a matter of days, we will confront an enormously important election—a moment in time that will capture and frame the status of our nation. The outcome will reflect what we care about, reveal our sameness and differences, impact our vision of the future, and influence how we will approach and prioritize health policy in the coming days, months and years.

In this edition of Farley's Features, we reflect on recent highlights of our policy activities both at home and in our nation's capital. We're actively studying the interface between federal and state policy; the impact of judicial decisions on executive and legislative authority; and the immediate opportunities to address systemic community health issues. Within the context of these election outcomes, we will remain focused on policy actions to achieve more equitable health. For now, we have a singular message: get out the vote. We'll see you on the other side.

Be well,

Shale

Shale Wong, MD, MSPH
Executive Director

What We're Reading (and Writing)

On the election

"[Voting Is Critical to the Pursuit of Health Equity](#)" reminds us that voting is good for our health. As part of our [Moving AHEAD](#) efforts (in which we advance health equity through arts and dance), we've included voter registration and efforts to increase civic participation. Health care settings can also be a great place to register voters, according to "[Increasing Voter Participation Through Health Care-Based Voter Registration](#)."

"[Interview with Jonathan Oberlander on the Implications of the 2024 U.S. Elections for Health Care Reform](#)" is a brief podcast from the New England Journal of Medicine highlighting impacts of the election on the Affordable Care Act.

On Colorado's ballot this year: [Amendment 79](#) to establish a constitutional right to abortion, [Proposition KK](#) proposes an excise tax on guns and ammunition, Denver [Ballot Issue 2Q](#) to fund Denver Health, and more.

On the health care workforce

"[Is primary care ready for a potential new public health emergency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, now subsided?](#)" is an article in Family Practice coauthored by Larry Green that examined data from primary care physician surveys. Their conclusion? Primary care is in crisis, and action is urgently needed to support the ability of primary care to meet ongoing patient and population health care needs.

"[Back to the Basics: Addressing Our Individual and Societal Despair](#)" by Jessica Kenny, Sarah Hemeida, and Maura Gissen is an article in Families, Systems, and Health on improving resilience for behavioral health providers, and starts with wise words from a favorite childhood friend.

"[Innovations in Rural Obstetrics to Maintain Access to Care](#)" is a recent Milbank blog post that describes innovative work happening across the country and, locally, in Sterling, Colorado. Dire circumstances are motivating innovation and change when it comes to maternity care, with [25 counties in Colorado described as "maternity care deserts."](#) In early 2024, we began work on a new project, [Colorado Rural Futures](#), that seeks to ensure rural Colorado hospitals' sustainability and improvement. Stay tuned for more on our results and conclusions.

Health Policy Journal Club

[Financial Profits in Health Care](#) is our September Health Policy Journal Club reading list curated by Stephanie Gold.

Our Recent Work Highlights: Lectureship and Congressional Briefing



This month, we celebrated 10 years of work at the Farley Center by kicking off our inaugural health policy lectureship with an hour-long discussion with Colorado's Attorney General Phil Weiser on the impact of recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings on health. His remarks focused on a recent decision reversing the decades-long "Chevron doctrine," which extended deference to experts in government agencies in the administration of laws. As a word of warning to all of us working at the nexus of health research and public policy, he reminded us that our expertise is important, but not sufficient, to persuade others. Missed it? Take a look at AG Weiser's [full prepared remarks](#). Attended? Share your thoughts [on our new LinkedIn!](#) Keep an eye out for our next lecture, coming this spring.

Shale Wong introduced a Congressional Briefing from our colleagues at CU's [Kempe Center](#) on [21st century child abuse](#). Warren Binford, Professor of Pediatrics and the W.H. Lea Endowed Chair for Justice in Pediatric Law, Policy and Ethics, published her opinion piece, "[Republicans and Democrats Just Came Together To Protect America's Kids](#)," in Newsweek on the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), which requires internet companies to keep children's safety in mind when designing the online platforms they use.



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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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