



## **If it sounds too good to be true, well ...**

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Known as Amendment 69 on the November ballot, ColoradoCare is a single-payer system of healthcare that supporters say would cover every Colorado resident, while offering enhanced benefits and reduced costs. According to ColoradoCare.org, there are no insurance premiums, no deductibles, and no co-pays on primary and preventive care.

ColoradoCare.org goes on to say the system would be primarily paid for through a 3.33-percent payroll deduction for employees, and 6.67-percent of payroll for employers – which the website touts "represents savings of thousands of dollars annually for over 80 percent of Colorado residents."

"It certainly could pass," says Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the Washington, DC-based Cato Institute. "Whether it would work or not is a different question."

He continues: "I don't think it can work if your definition of a health reform working is that reform delivering better, more affordable, and more secure healthcare [because] single payer is not going to do that."

In Cannon's opinion, single payer is going to reduce the quality of care while increasing its cost.

"It's also going to have a terrible impact on the economy of Colorado because you're going to have to impose much higher taxes in order to get it passed," he argues.

"These taxes are so substantial that when Vermont considered building on ObamaCare, [considered] turning it into a single-payer plan, they realized they would have to impose additional taxes – and those taxes were so high that even Vermont, which is a more left-leaning state than Colorado is, even Vermont balked at imposing those high taxes."

If Colorado decides it wants to impose those taxes on its people, says Cannon, it's going to have a number of problems. "It would eliminate a lot of jobs, it would eliminate a lot of economic activity, and [it would] hurt the state in more ways than just its healthcare sector," he predicts.

The individuals and organizations endorsing ColoradoCare include The League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Colorado Democratic Party, and liberal political activist Noam Chomsky.