



# Colorado Medical Society

*“Advocating excellence in the profession of medicine”*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2013

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## **Colorado Medical Society announces full support of Gov. Hickenlooper’s “State of Health”**

The Colorado Medical Society, representing more than 7,500 member physicians, medical residents, and medical students, announced full support for a work plan released by Gov. John Hickenlooper titled, “The State of Health: Colorado’s Commitment to Become the Healthiest State.”

“We applaud Gov. Hickenlooper for developing and bringing forward a consensus health care plan for Colorado,” says CMS President Jan Kief, MD, of Denver. “We fully support his vision to make Colorado the healthiest state, and we enthusiastically accept his invitation to promote and participate in healthy living.”

Through the promotion of prevention and wellness; expansion of health care coverage, access and capacity; improvement of health system integration and quality; and by enhancing value and strengthening sustainability; the governor calls on a collaboration of individuals and public and private partners to improve health outcomes for every Coloradan and improve the quality of life in Colorado communities at the best value – a Colorado version of the “triple aim.”

The CMS Board of Directors reviewed the plan and voted at their meeting on Friday, May 3, to support the governor’s vision and actively participate in advancing the goals put forth in the plan. Over the coming months, CMS will educate members on the plan, provide resources on healthy living and ways physicians can participate in public and patient education, partner with other stakeholders, and encourage physicians to lead by example by living a healthy lifestyle.

“We know from research that it’s important for physicians to take the time to focus on their own health and wellness – not just as an example to our patients, but also because research indicates that a healthy physician is even more equipped to be a compassionate and skilled caregiver,” Dr. Kief says.

“Physicians have long understood that there is more to fixing the health care system than what goes on in our hospitals and medical practices,” Dr. Kief says. “Research shows that health care is actually only a small component – about 10 percent – of what shapes the health of individuals. The remainder is due to genetics, individuals’ behaviors and lifestyles, and the environmental and social conditions where people live, learn, work, and play.”

CMS recognizes that the governor’s plan formally addresses the fundamental role that broader public health occupies in health care reform and the Society welcomes and applauds this focus.

“While many states are wrapped around the axle of partisan and ideological bickering over health care costs and entitlements, Gov. Hickenlooper has developed a health care plan that is shovel-ready,” Dr. Kief says. “It builds on and expands a solid base of collaboration and streamlining that is already years into development and maturity.”

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*The Colorado Medical Society is a nonprofit organization whose membership comprises the majority of physicians, residents and medical students in Colorado. The Society’s mission is to promote the science and art of medicine, the betterment of public health, and the welfare of Colorado physicians and their patients.*