

# Routt County Peak Health Alliance Steering Committee

March 4, 2022

Dear Commissioners Corrigan, Redmond, and Melton,

We the undersigned members of the Peak Health Alliance Routt County Steering Committee would like to thank you for funding the entirety of the project to find more affordable health insurance options for the residents of Routt County. Like you, we are convinced of the long-term benefit of this effort and wish to acknowledge your leadership and vision in providing the funds Peak grantors require from local partners.

After reviewing the data gathered and analyzed by Peak, we are certain that there is room to save your constituents money on healthcare. The next steps will take a great deal of work. Now that we have studied the data and decided to move ahead, we need to partner with the University of Colorado Health System and other local providers. We also need to find an insurance carrier willing to collaborate. We are grateful to have the experience of Peak to hopefully make progress where past efforts have failed.

As you know, medical expenses are the leading cause of personal bankruptcy. The current cost of health care premiums in Routt County means many of our residents are uninsured or underinsured, creating obstacles to getting appropriate care outside of the hospital emergency department, and many employers cannot afford to provide insurance for their employees. Affordable health care coverage is a top concern for individuals and employers.

With the success of this project, not only will individuals find they have improved access to high-quality health care services, but the county will see enhanced economic development. Premium dollars not sent to far off insurance company headquarters can stay in Routt County. Combined, the other eight Peak counties have saved about \$10 million in premium expenses. That represents a significant boost in money in residents' pockets. This inevitably leads to more spending on local goods and services. Clearly, this effort is not just about improving the health status of our citizens, it is also about improving economic opportunities in the county.

Again, thank you for your leadership and vision!

Sincerely,

*Deana Von Almen*  
Deana Von Almen

*Jason Lacy*  
Jason Lacy

*Joella West*

Joella West

*Karl Gills*

Karl Gills

*Laura Mackinnon*

Laura Mackinnon

*Mark Walker*

Mark Walker

*Mathew Mendisco*

Mathew Mendisco

*Mayling Simpson*

Mayling Simpson

*Sarah Leonard*

Sarah Leonard

*Suzanne White*

Suzanne White

*Ulrich Salzgeber*

Ulrich Salzgeber