New Colorado law protects living organ donors!

Colorado became one of just two states to prohibit health insurance companies from discriminating against living organ donors by charging them higher premiums or denying them insurance. The change is part of the Colorado Living Donor Insurance Act which Governor Jared Polis (D-Colorado) signed into law on Thursday, May 30.

House Bill 19-1253 prohibits health, life, disability, and long-term care insurers from discriminating against living organ donors by charging them high premiums or denying them insurance. The signing of the bill ensures that living organ
donors will be protected in case the Affordable Care Act goes away, according to the American Transplant Foundation, which advocated for the bill. Read more HERE.

Are you interested in becoming a LIVING Organ Donor? The teams at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s, Porter Adventist Hospital, and UCHealth, can all help. Pediatric living donor services are also provided at Children's Hospital Colorado.
ASK THE EXPERTS
AUGUST 4, 2019 @ QUEEN OF VIETNAMESE MARTYRS CHURCH
(VIETNAMESE SPEAKING ONLY)
ALF is hosting a FREE liver education program in VIETNAMESE @ Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Church in Wheat Ridge covering topics on Hepatitis B and Liver Wellness.

TOUGH MUDDER
AUGUST 10-11, 2019 @ STERLING RANCH, LITTLETON
Tough Mudder is an insane weekend of expansive views and mud-drenched rolling hills criss-crossing Sterling Ranch. So gather up your mudding crew and push yourselves with ALF’s team.
**LIVER LIFE WALK**

**ROCKY MOUNTAINS**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 • PHILLIP S. MILLER PARK**

Join us at Phillip S. Miller Park in Castle Rock on Sep. 8th as we change the face of liver disease. Walk to raise awareness. Walk to create hope. Walk to end liver disease.

[CLICK FOR INFO]

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**LIVER LIFE WALK**

**MONTANA**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 • LIONS CLUB PARK**

Join us at Lions Club Park in Red Lodge on Sep. 15th for the inaugural Montana walk, as we change the face of liver disease. Walk to raise awareness. Walk to create hope. Walk to end liver disease.

[CLICK FOR INFO]
Flavors of Denver | May 16, 2019

World-class culinary creations, inspirational Liver Champions and innovative doctors that paved the way for liver transplantation today. 2019 Flavors of Denver presented by your Hometown Toyota Stores was a huge success because of our supporters.

We would like to thank all of our guests who attended, to all of our volunteers for helping us put together this special evening, because Flavors of Denver would not be a successful event without YOU!

Together, we raised $107,650!

Visit our Facebook page for photos at www.facebook.com/alfrockymountain.
Colfax Marathon | May 18-19, 2019

Whether it was the 5k, Half Marathon or full marathon, our team of 7 runners crushed it all the way to the finish line! Our team fundraised almost $500 for the Liver Life Challenge and we could not be more proud to cross the finish line hearing bystanders yelling “GO LIVER!” as each finisher received their medal.

Don't miss out again and run with us next year at Colfax Marathon 2020! There is plenty of time for training.
I am a pharmacist at Avella Specialty Pharmacy and have been there for 6 years. I have spent much of my time at Avella working with patients to treat their chronic hepatitis C. Much of my work has revolved around medication access for expensive medications. I work closely with Infectious Disease specialists and Gastroenterologists to provide clinical and prior authorization assistance for their patients. The process to get Hepatitis C medications approved through insurance companies is very involved and can sometime take months to accomplish. My experience deals with navigating insurance company’s prior authorization processes to get patients approved and successfully treated.

This position is currently my first volunteer position of this nature. I am passionate about liver health as a result of my experience in helping providers and patients get access to expensive medicines to help treat their liver conditions and want to continue to advocate for them through my growing involvement in ALF.

Sean Lee, Pharm.D, CSP
Ask the Experts are free liver education programs intended for patients, family members, caregivers, students, medical providers and the general public. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required. Here are our upcoming Ask the Experts programs:

**When:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 @ 9:30-11:30AM

**Event Location:** **Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs** 4695 N. Harlan St., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

**Program Topics**

- Hepatitis B with Dr. Phat D. Hoang from Westview Family Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona
- Liver Wellness & Compliance with Dr. Anhtuan Pham from Lakewood Medical Center, Colorado

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This program will be **VIETNAMESE SPEAKING ONLY**
In April American Liver Foundation flew a large group of people affected by liver disease either as patients suffering from one of the many liver diseases, survivors of transplant, caregivers and just general advocates for livers to Washington D.C. We met all day on Monday with our lobbying firm to learn about where ALF stands on a number of issues and learned just why we were asking for additional funding for research in preparation for our Day on the Hill on Tuesday. This year we visited with either legislators in person, or their staff to present these requests:

Increase funding at the National Institute of Health (NIH) with a funding level of at least $41.6 billion

- Continue to support the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program at the Department of Defense especially keeping liver cancer and hepatitis on the annual list of conditions deemed eligible for study through the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program.
- Reauthorize the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) so that important ongoing and emerging research activities can continue to move forward.
- As Congress considers potential changes to the healthcare system that lower premiums and enhance protections, please ensure any modifications comply with the “four pillars” of patient protection.
- Cosponsor the bipartisan Safe Step Act (H.R. 2279), which would require patient safety, transparency, and clinical judgment regulations for step therapy or “fail first” protocols implemented for insurance plans.
- Cosponsor the bipartisan Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1224/S. 511) which seeks to prohibit employment and long-term care/life insurance
discrimination and otherwise promote and ease the process of organ donation.

- Support reintroduction of the Access to Marketplace Insurance Act, and otherwise work to protect charitable assistance as part of the healthcare safety net for patients with the greatest financial and healthcare needs.

- Provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with an FY 2020 funding level of at least $7.8 billion (an increase of $500 million over FY 2019) and encourage collaboration with stakeholders to promote a timely and effective liver cancer awareness campaign.

- Please support the programmatic request for at least $250,000 to support a timely liver cancer awareness and education program for FY 2020.

- Please provide the new “elimination initiative” at CDC with an FY 2020 funding level of at least $58 million (an increase of $53 million over FY 2019) to support new activities focused on addressing the nexus of the opioid epidemic and infectious diseases.

- Provide the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) with an FY 2020 funding level of at least $8.5 billion (an increase of $1.7 billion over FY 2019) and ensure that the agency has sufficient resources to enhance organ donation through awareness activities and partnerships

As if that wasn’t enough, we asked Congress to continue to defend the “four pillars of patient protection” as they debate options to shore up insurance markets and lower premiums and look for ways to expand and enhance protections for those with serious illnesses:

- No pre-existing condition discrimination (patients have guaranteed issue and consistent pricing).
- No life-time or annual caps on benefits (individuals with chronic illness cannot outspend coverage).
- Dependents can stay on family coverage until they are 26 (so families do not face medical bankruptcy or involuntary divorce)
- Lower out of pocket costs for patients.

Two of the most serious issues that have emerged in the wake of the ACA include the use of “step therapy” and bans on charitable assistance or the implementation of a copay accumulator. Step therapy or fail first requires a patient to fail on a cheaper treatment option before they can graduate onto a
more expensive treatment option recommended by their doctor. In the most serious cases, a patient’s health can deteriorate while they wait for physician directed treatment. The Safe Step Act (H.R. 2279) does not ban this practice. Rather, it provides regulations and patient protections. For example, a patient must know if they are being switched off a medication and their physician must have a clear process to weigh in and overrule such a decision.

The Access to Marketplace Insurance Act bans restrictions on charitable assistance (premium, copay, and travel) and also bans the use of copay accumulators (where the money is accepted, but never counted toward an annual out-of-pocket maximum). This bill is preparing to be reintroduced, by bipartisan supporters are redrafting it. Also, since the issue has grown beyond marketplace plans to include Medigap plans and other forms of coverage it will likely need to be renamed. Congress still needs to actively support any legislative efforts that protect patient access to charitable assistance moving forward.

This was my third year doing this and every year I witness that our words the prior year were mostly listened to. I look forward to my year number four next spring!

- Janet Rost

American Liver Foundation Rocky Mountain Division Board President

Without our dedicated volunteers we couldn’t complete our mission to facilitate, advocate and promote education, support and resources for the prevention,
treatment and cure of liver disease. We sincerely thank each and every one of them for support!

Are you looking to help make a difference? Come volunteer with us and help support our cause to eradicate liver disease! Together, we are stronger.

Below are the opportunities available for the Rocky Mountain Division:

**Liver Life Walk Rocky Mountain**- CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

**Day at the Zoo with Children's Hospital Colorado**- CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

Follow the Rocky Mountain Division Today!

American Liver Foundation  
1660 S. Albion St. Suite 520  
Denver, CO 80222  
303-988-4388

Call the HelpLine at  
1-800-GO-LIVER (465-4837)  
M-F / 9AM - 7PM EST  
LiverFoundation.org