States are on the front lines for innovation and change and are in the best position to take the lead in education as individuals assume more responsibility for their personal health care decisions while transitioning from being patients to consumers.

Significant legislative direction began with SB06-208 which created the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform.

Statutes created:
- new coverage mandates,
- the All Payers Claim Data Base,
- and insurance reform.

Other changes included:
- increased attention to chronic conditions, especially obesity and smoking,
- the Division of Insurance was given regulatory authority over rates,
- barriers to telemedicine were removed,
- scope of practice was revised,
- work force issues were prioritized,
- and wellness programs were expanded for both public and private employee groups.

Reforming Medicaid became a primary objective. Measures include:
- HB09-1293 Hospital Provider Fee
- Expansion of the program
- Creating an Accountable Care Collaborative (Client centered medical home for comprehensive primary care to achieve $280 million in savings over the next ten years
- Reforming payments systems
- Move away from fee-for-service

References:

www.leg.state.co.us
www.Colorado.gov/state of health
www.Colorado.gov/healthreform