

Date: January 18, 2018	MEMO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD ACTION REQUESTED	 Health District OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY
Staff: Alyson Williams		

LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES:
Continued Funding in the FY2018-2019 Budget

Policy Issue Summary

During the 2015 legislative session, HB15-1194 was proposed to continue funding for a state program that provides low income women with long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). That bill failed to pass, but the issue arose again in the 2016 legislative session as a budget line item proposal. A coalition, LARC4CO, formed to advocate for funding for this program in the budget at \$2.5 million. This coalition was successful and LARC has been funded in the budget since. Funding for the program is not guaranteed and may be challenged.

Reason for Involvement by the Health District of Northern Larimer County

The program has continued to be successful in offering women in Colorado contraceptive options that have improved health outcomes and averted costs in public assistance programs. LARCs are a dependable, highly effective, and long-lasting birth control method. The program continues to greatly expand their use which has been demonstrated to decrease the rates of fertility and abortions among young women throughout the state.¹

In 2015, the Health District strongly supported HB15-1194, which would have funded these programs at \$5 million. The bill failed during that session but funding was continued in the interim by a private donor. The budget in the 2016 session provided \$2.5 million for the program, which has been funded in subsequent years. In 2016 to support the budget effort, a coalition of health organizations organized to pursue action on LARC in the budget and the Health District took part. The Health District signed-on to the coalition factsheet in 2017.

The attached factsheet from the coalition, entitled “Support Continued Access to Effective Birth Control,” provides further detail.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Directors sign on to the LARC4CO coalition fact sheet for the 2018 legislative session and support the continued funding of LARC by the state.

¹ Prevention Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Jan. 2017). *Taking the Unintended Out of Pregnancy: Colorado’s Success with Long-Acting Reversible Contraception*. Retrieved from https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PSD_TitleX3_CFPI-Report.pdf. Accessed on Jan 10, 2018.