



Colorado Health Care Stories

Olivia Hudis, Boulder

“Prior to Obamacare, my husband and I had no healthcare at all. This got more and more nerve-racking as we got older. When I broke my arm and needed surgery I had to pay entirely out-of-pocket. When I needed thyroid surgery I ended up going to the UK, where I was born, because private care was a lot less expensive there and I was able to raise the money. Once the ACA passed, and Medicaid was expanded, my husband and I were eligible for Medicaid! We’ve been insured since, and my coverage has been critical in helping me sustain the non-profit I co-founded in Boulder!”



But I can walk up all 3 flights of stairs to my apartment, and I can bike to work and the grocery store. These days, my pain doesn’t define me.

Without the ACA, I would still be unable to work at all. The law has become a cornerstone to my ability to be a taxpaying, contributing citizen. This spring, I plan on having insurance through the marketplace again to go see one of the top specialists in the country for my disease.

I owe the ACA my well-being, my quality of life, and my happiness. I am an active, creative, giving member of society. If the law is repealed, and the pre-existing condition exclusions are re-enforced, I’d lose access to the care I need, and the new life I’ve formed for myself in Boulder.”

Nikita Anderson, Boulder

“I have severe endometriosis and am unable to have a full time job. Despite having a bachelor’s degree, I make only \$13/hour in one of the most expensive towns in the US.

I got covered through the Affordable Care Act in 2014, and without it, I wouldn’t have been able to get a surgery I desperately needed in 2015—an oophorectomy (the removal of an ovary). The surgery has vastly improved my mobility and general ability to be active and live my life to the fullest. I’m not sure if I’ll ever be able to run again, and I can’t jump too much if I’m playing frisbee.



(Nikita after her oophorectomy in 2015)