## PatientRightsAdvocate.org Presents Gov. Polis with Price Transparency Champion Award

## Governor honored for fighting on behalf of Colorado patients

Today, <u>PatientRightsAdvocate.org</u> (PRA) announced that Governor Jared Polis of Colorado will receive PRA's new *Price Transparency Champion Award*, which recognizes elected leaders for extraordinary efforts to support healthcare price transparency, protect their constituents from opaque billing practices, and lower the costs of healthcare and coverage. See the full release <u>here</u>.

"I congratulate Gov. Polis for this honor and appreciate his outstanding leadership on behalf of Colorado's patients and healthcare consumers," said PRA Founder and Chairman Cynthia Fisher. "At a time when many hospitals still keep patients in the dark and blindsiding them with overcharges and surprise bills, Gov. Polis has stood up and made a difference. His strong support for the price transparency bill, <u>SB 252</u> helped it to pass overwhelmingly through the General Assembly, and by signing it into law, he has brought hope to all Colorado patients and their families. Colorado now has the strongest state bill in the country to protect patients from medical debt if they do not have access to prices in advance."

"We salute the Governor's invaluable contributions toward a more equitable, open, and affordable healthcare system and encourage other governors to follow his lead," Fisher added. "By knowing all upfront prices, patients will see the wide price variation, be empowered to lower their costs, and have financial certainty to be protected from overcharges."

"Saving people money on health care has been a top priority since day one, and I am proud that we continue making bold strides in partnership with the legislature to make sure that every Coloradan has access to high-quality, affordable health care," said Gov. Polis. "I am honored to accept this award and appreciate PRA's partnership on this important issue."

The introduction of the Price Transparency Champion Award comes after last month's release of PRA's <u>fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report</u>, which revealed that only 36% of U.S. hospitals reviewed are in full compliance with the federal <u>Hospital Price Transparency Rule</u>, including 52% of hospitals (16 of 31) in Colorado.

Each elected official honored with this award demonstrated exceptional leadership in enforcing and strengthening healthcare price transparency measures at the state or federal level, and in so doing displayed a steadfast commitment to putting patients first.

Other officials honored with PRA's inaugural Price Transparency Champion Award include:

- U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Sixth District of New Jersey
- U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Fifth District of Washington

## **About PRA**

PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA) is a leading national healthcare price transparency organization dedicated to ushering in systemwide transparency through advocacy, testimony, media, legal research, and grassroots campaigns. PRA believes that the availability and visibility of actual, upfront healthcare

prices will greatly lower costs for patients and employers through a functional, competitive healthcare marketplace.