



**NEWS STATEMENT**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Statement attributable to:  
Polly Anderson  
Policy Director  
Colorado Community Health Network

**Healthcare Affordability Act a Special Achievement in a Tough Budget Year**  
***Landmark Effort by State and Hospitals to Help Uninsured Coloradans***

DENVER— On behalf of Colorado's Community Health Centers, we applaud the hard work and commitment to Coloradans shown by hospitals, Gov. Ritter, state legislators, and the many partners who made the development and approval of the Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act a reality. This bill will slow the growth of health care costs for ordinary citizens.

Gov. Ritter and his staff and Colorado's hospitals put in extraordinary effort to develop a solution that will provide coverage for more uninsured Coloradans and reduce losses incurred by hospitals from inadequate Medicaid reimbursement. It will help reduce the cost shifting that drives up health insurance and health care costs for all Coloradans, without driving up the state budget.

This legislation alone cannot address the impact of the economic downturn on the state budget and on health care costs. Many of the providers that will benefit from this bill in the coming years, including Community Health Centers, are facing significant reimbursement cuts today due to the state budget shortfall. That's why it is important that we pause today to recognize that this legislation is a remarkable product of significant effort by many who care about the health of Coloradans. We feel honored to have been able to join in supporting this legislation.

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*To interview Ms. Anderson, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org).*

*The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 54 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).*

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