



NEWS RELEASE

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General Assembly Declares March 25 Community Health Center Day

DENVER— Today the Colorado General Assembly declared March 25, 2010, to be Community Health Center Day in Colorado. The joint resolution was the idea of Rep. Spencer Swalm (R-Centennial), who sponsored it in the House of Representatives. Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) served as senate sponsor of the resolution.

The resolution recognized the work of Colorado's federally qualified Community Health Centers in providing comprehensive primary health care for hundreds of thousands of people in Colorado. Support was so strong that all members present in each chamber at the time of the votes were added as cosponsors of the legislation.

"We are deeply honored at the recognition that Rep. Swalm and Sen. Heath and their colleagues have shown to the people who work in Community Health Centers throughout the state," said Annette Kowal, CEO of the Colorado Community Health Network. "It means a great deal to the front-line health care providers that their elected officials have shown this appreciation for their hard work and dedication to Colorado's health and communities."

"It was my pleasure to sponsor a resolution that attracted widespread bipartisan support for organizations that provide high-quality, cost-effective health care to people in the state who don't have many other options," said Rep. Swalm, the originator of the legislation.

"You are the heart and soul of the health care system for the most vulnerable people in Colorado," Sen. Heath told a gathering of staff and board members of Community Health Centers the night before the vote.

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To interview Ms. Kowal, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or 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 55 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.

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