



NEWS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2008

Statement attributable to:
Annette Kowal
Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Community Health Network

Health Care Building Blocks Are Important First Action

DENVER— Governor Ritter has provided the first building blocks for Colorado’s blue print to construct an improved health care system. Instead of hiding behind the “no money and too many priorities” wall, Ritter is proposing components that will form part of the foundation to make health care reform in Colorado a reality.

Many Coloradans lack access to high quality, affordable health care. It will take time for Coloradans to build the consensus to assure that each of us has the health care we need. The effort will be well worth it: Good health care reduces missed school and work days, reduces emergency medical care expenditures, and reduces the spread of infectious diseases.

Health care coverage is necessary to help people gain access to health care and to help health care providers care for more Coloradans. Governor Ritter’s emphasis on covering more children, many of whom in Colorado do not have a health care home, is the cornerstone we need.

Coverage alone does not guarantee access. Building the additional exam rooms needed and recruiting the doctors, nurses, dentists, and therapists Coloradans need is also important. In a tight budget year and worsening economy, the governor’s emphasis on quality improvement and cost containment is valuable to all tax payers and health care consumers. Establishing a center to work on these components will keep the momentum of the 208 Commission for Healthcare Reform going.

Community Health Centers thank Governor Ritter for his leadership and focus on health care for Coloradans. We stand ready to do our part.

###

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 14 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to one in 12 Coloradans from 54 of Colorado’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.