



NEWS STATEMENT
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Statement attributable to:
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Colorado Community Health Network

Health Care Reform Will Help People and Communities in Colorado

DENVER— On March 21, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives approved federal health care reform legislation that expands insurance coverage to 32 million people and invests in access and prevention through an expansion of the Community Health Centers (CHC) program. The bill will also help bring more primary care providers to communities where they are scarce. In addition, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has projected that the health care reform legislation will reduce the federal deficit over time.

We are proud and humbled that Congress and President Obama have made Health Centers an integral partner in improving the nation's health care delivery system. During the first decade of this century, the support of Congress and President George W. Bush, as well as the support of states, and individual and foundation donors, helped us be where we are today: ready to continue our work to care for our communities.

This legislation, if it completes its path through the legislative process, will expand the funding available for the Health Center program and the timing couldn't be better for Colorado. There are currently hundreds of thousands of people in our state without access to a regular source of health care. A plan developed by the Colorado Community Health Network and Colorado's CHCs, called Access for All Colorado, maps out how increasing funding over the next 20 years will allow CHCs to serve as the health care home to one million Coloradans, approximately half of them now uninsured.

Together with ongoing support from the state, patients, foundations and local governments, these federal dollars will help us move forward in a decisive way to make access for all Coloradans a reality.

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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.

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.