

NEWS ADVISORY

March 23, 2010

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Community Health Centers Celebrated by Colorado's General Assembly

DENVER— On Thursday, March 25, 2010, the Colorado General Assembly is expected to vote on a joint resolution recognizing the work of Colorado's federally qualified Community Health Centers in providing comprehensive primary health care for hundreds of thousands of people in Colorado. The bipartisan resolution, sponsored by Rep. Spencer Swalm (R-Centennial) and Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder), will declare the day to be "Community Health Center Day in Colorado."

In addition, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee will hear testimony about the Colorado Health Service Corps, HB 10-1138, which will further strengthen Colorado's State Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Gagliardi and Sen. Morse and will create more incentives to attract health care providers to practice in rural and underserved areas of the state. A representative from a Community Health Center will be testifying on behalf of the Colorado Community Health Network, the statewide association of Community Health Centers, which actively supports the bill.

Both legislative actions coincide with the annual visit to the state capitol by staff and board members, some of whom are patients, of Community Health Centers from across the state. The Health Center representatives will be visiting their state representatives and senators in meetings throughout the day to discuss the importance of state funding to Health Centers and the positive impact passage of HB10-1138 would have on CHCs ability to recruit and retain health care providers.

WHAT: Consideration of Sen. Joint Res. "CO Community Health Centers"
WHEN: March 25, 2010, hour of convening 9:00 a.m.
WHERE: Senate Chamber, Colorado Capitol (the bill will be hand-carried to the House after the Senate vote)
WHO: Rep. Spencer Swalm and Sen. Rollie Heath

WHAT: Hearing on HB 10-1138, the Colorado Health Services Corps
WHEN: March 25, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: Senate Committee Room 356
WHO: Community Health Center representative

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To interview a representative of a Community Health Center, or if you are interested in attending a legislative meeting with Health Center representatives, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (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.