



**NEWS STATEMENT**  
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Statement attributable to:  
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## **208 Commission Passes Baton to Assembly *Health Care Reform Effort Must Continue***

DENVER— Colorado owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the 208 Commission for Healthcare Reform and their staff for the hard work they have put into studying options for decreasing the uninsured and controlling health care costs. For more than a year, they have asked questions, analyzed data, debated proposals and crisscrossed the state to listen to Coloradans. They have run the first relay to get to the finish line of providing health care for all Coloradans.

There is still a distance to be run. There are many good ideas in the commission's recommendations and in the proposals submitted to the commission. There are many opinions and strategies for balancing the concepts the commission struggled to balance: personal responsibility, affordability, access to health care providers, cost, choice and funding. The background materials, economic analyses, and pros-and-cons of different ideas that the commission has gathered is invaluable to the state legislature as the health care reform baton is passed to them.

Community Health Centers are a partner in the next steps of reform. Community Health Centers are a proven model of care that is already helping meet the health care needs of Coloradans. Community Health Centers provide comprehensive primary health care to nearly 400,000 people across the state. Health Centers have a proven record of expanding access to health care for the medically underserved and uninsured. Health Centers emphasize preventive, primary and chronic care and improve their patients' health, lower costs, and save millions for the taxpayers. Whatever track Colorado's health care reform moves down, Health Centers will continue to work to improve the health of Coloradans.

None of us should think of ourselves as spectators in this challenge to fix our health care system. Many Coloradans have already given much time, thought, and energy to attend the commission meetings, read the material, and submit proposals and comments. Yet we as a state and a community have many more steps to take. We must all continue to participate in Colorado's health care reform process. Community Health Centers look forward to working with our legislature and all Coloradans to reach the best health care reform goals.

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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](mailto: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](http://www.cchn.org).*