



**NEWS STATEMENT**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Statement attributable to:  
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Policy Director  
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## **More State Budget Cuts Required, Options Fewer**

DENVER— On Tuesday Governor Bill Ritter presented his proposed budget for state Fiscal Year 10-11. We know that a balanced budget in this current economic climate requires tough choices. We empathize with the Governor, legislators, agencies facing decreasing state funding, and all individuals and families struggling through this unprecedented economic crisis.

Colorado continues to face declining state revenues while encountering rising needs among its people. The Medicaid caseload has increased a staggering 45 percent over what it was three years ago. As more people lose their jobs, many lose their health insurance and some become eligible for Medicaid.

In 2008, Community Health Centers provided health care to over 420,000 people including approximately a third of Colorado's Medicaid enrollees, as well as a third of Colorado's low-income uninsured and one third of CHP+ enrollees. As the state's budget must be balanced, tough choices were made for the current state fiscal year resulting in reduced services, clinic closures, and growing waiting lists at Community Health Centers. Our staff and patients are pitching in and making the sacrifices necessary as state funding declines and the need for services increases.

We are grateful that Gov. Ritter's FY10-11 proposal does not make many more cuts impacting Community Health Centers. We are also very pleased to see that the Governor's budget proposal includes revisions or temporary suspensions of some tax credits. Our state cannot balance the budget through reductions alone. We applaud and encourage the Governor's efforts to look for revenue opportunities.

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*To interview Ms. Anderson, please contact Katie Jacobson at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 240, or via cell at 303-916-9243, or [katie@cchn.org](mailto:katie@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](http://www.cchn.org).*