



**Please SUPPORT SB08-160 – Children’s Health Care
Sponsors: Senators Hagedorn and Groff and Rep. McGihon**

Background: Good, affordable health insurance coverage is essential for keeping children healthy and ready to learn. Colorado has done a good job of ensuring that 8 out of 10 kids are covered – and now is the time to finish the job. More than 159,000 children in Colorado live without health care coverage, often turning every day issues into emergency room situations. In a recent poll, nearly three-quarters of voters in our state believe that every child in Colorado should be covered by a government supported health care program if their parents are unable to afford private coverage.

Currently, Colorado provides health insurance coverage for:

- Children 0-6 years old and pregnant women up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) through Medicaid.
- Children 6-18 up to 100 percent of the FPL through Medicaid
- Children and pregnant women up to 205 percent of the FPL through CHP+.

SB160 will expand health insurance coverage through the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). With proposed amendments, SB160 will:

- Expand CHP+ eligibility from 205% to 225% of the FPL. 225% of FPL is \$46,000/year for a family of four. At an average cost of \$12,000/year, these families cannot afford to purchase insurance. The bill will allow the FPL to be raised further to 250% if additional funds are appropriated.
- Improve the Child Health Plan’s mental health benefits package so it is equivalent to the Medicaid mental health benefits for children.

Fiscal Impact: The CHP+ program receives \$2 in federal funds for every \$1 spent by Colorado. The state share of funding for SB160 will be appropriated from the Children’s Basic Health Plan Trust Fund, where funds have been allocated through the long bill.

The 2010 All Kids Covered Initiative includes more than 40 organizations dedicated to securing health insurance coverage for all children by the year 2010. Organizations supporting SB160 are listed on the back.

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By the year 2010, all children in Colorado will have coverage through insurance or public programs that ensures access to a medical home providing appropriate and affordable health services.



SB160 is supported by the following organizations:

2010 All Kids Covered Lead Organizations:

Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Community Health Network
Metro Organizations for People (MOP)

Additional Supporters

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
The Children's Hospital
Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics
Denver Health
Oral Health Awareness Colorado!
National Council of Jewish Women CO Section
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Colorado Association of Health Plans
Colorado Public Health Association
American Academy of Pediatrics, CO Chapter
Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado
Women's Lobby of Colorado
CO Association for School Based Health Care
Northern Colorado Health Alliance
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Colorado Access
Colorado Behavioral Health Council
The CO Children's Healthcare Access Program
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry
AARP Colorado
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Colorado Medical Society
March of Dimes, Colorado Chapter
Center for Policy Entrepreneurship
Rural Communities Resource Center
Rose Community Foundation
Autism Society of Colorado
Early Childhood Councils of the San Luis Valley
FRESC: Good Jobs-Strong Communities
The Bell Policy Center
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
Colorado AFL-CIO
Denver Area Labor Federation
American College of Nurse Midwives, CO Chapter

National Assoc. of Social Workers, CO Chapter
Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work
Colorado Rural Health Center
Kaiser Permanente of Colorado
9to5, Ntl. Assoc. of Working Women – Colorado
OneGiving
The Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and
Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
Mental Health America of Colorado
Colorado Psychological Association
Colorado Psychiatric Society
Society of Addictions Counselors of Colorado

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