



**Please SUPPORT SB08-161 – Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment
Sponsors: Senators Boyd, Spence, and Groff
and Representative Merrifield**

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.

Research has shown that 2/3 of these uninsured children are eligible for health care programs, but are not enrolled. Children up to 205% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for either Medicaid or the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). 205% of FPL is an annual income of \$42,000 for a family of four.

Colorado requires families applying for either program for their child(ren) to provide paycheck stubs for the entire previous month. According to community workers who help families complete the application process, this paperwork requirement is one of the top barriers to completing an application. When Medicaid or CHP+ coverage expires, families must meet this requirement again to keep their child(ren) insured even if their family income has not changed.

SB161 reduces barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+ for currently eligible children. SB161 will:

- Eliminate the requirements for families to submit paycheck stubs and instead uses available data through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to verify a family's income
- Allow the DOLE data to be used to reenroll children at the end of their eligibility to avoid interruptions in health insurance coverage
- Have an existing advisory committee explore the feasibility of combining Medicaid and CHP+ into one program

Fiscal Impact: The cost of the bill reflects computer programming costs of only \$18,000 in state funds. Health care foundations have expressed interest in funding these one-time costs.

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 SB161 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.



SB161 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. Association of Working Women – CO
OneGiving

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