

March 2, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Because the status of health care for Colorado's children is a concern we share, our four foundations came together to commission a study to help us fully understand the scope of this issue, and what we and others might be able to do to address this challenging problem.

Conducted by Health Policy Solutions, the study and resulting report – *Kids' Health Care Access: Diagnosis and Prescription for Improvement* – examined the current state of health care access, coverage, provider capacity and quality of care for all children in Metro Denver, where more than half of Colorado's un- and under-insured children reside. Our diagnosis of the problem suggests that, in many instances, these issues need to be addressed at the state level.

Findings of this study lead us to conclude that:

- Children are not as healthy as they could be, especially uninsured and some publicly insured children.
- Of the uninsured children in Colorado, nearly half are eligible for but not enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+).
- The major factors contributing to avoidable poor health care access for children include lack of health insurance, lack of focus on quality improvement, too few providers willing to see publicly insured or uninsured children and lack of parental knowledge as to when and how best to use the health care system.
- Any effort to expand access to Medicaid/CHP+ must be paired with provider participation in these programs.

Improving access to quality care for all children in Colorado will require an approach that directly addresses each of these findings – a four-pronged approach that expands coverage to uninsured children, improves the quality of care delivered through public programs, increases provider capacity to serve low-income children, and provides health education and outreach to parents. Making this a public priority will yield many dividends, including better child health and greater value for Colorado taxpayers.

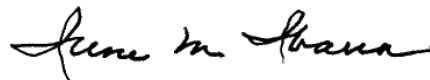
The Executive Summary that highlights the findings of this study is enclosed for your review. The full report is available online at each of our websites.

Our foundations are committed to using this study to guide our work. We hope too that you and others who work to improve Colorado's health also will use this information so that together we can significantly improve access to quality health care for all children in Colorado.

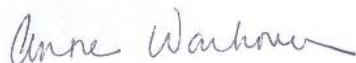
Sincerely,



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Irene M. Ibarra, President & CEO
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