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## **COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCES ADDITION OF VP OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### **Cody Belzley Will Join Team to Lead Policy and Communications Efforts**

Colorado Children's Campaign President Chris Watney announced today that Cody Belzley will join the organization as Vice President of Public Affairs, providing strategic policy and communications guidance to further the organization's mission to improve the lives of children in the areas of child health, education and early childhood education and development.

"This is a critical time for children across Colorado, and for the Colorado Children's Campaign as an organization," said Watney. "Both will benefit from Cody's experience, strategic thinking and tenacity, and we are thrilled to have her join our team."

Belzley, 28, most recently served as the Senior Policy Analyst for Health in the Office of Policy and Initiatives for Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., analyzing and advising on health-related legislation and coordinating efforts around health reform. During her tenure, she was integral to the development and advancement of Governor Ritter's Building Blocks to Health Reform agenda, including the 2009 Colorado Health Care Affordability Act, Colorado's largest health insurance coverage expansion in more than four decades. Prior to this position, Belzley worked on state and federal policy for Denver Health, Colorado's largest safety net health system, and as a political and policy communications consultant for SE2, a communications firm focused on public policy issues. Belzley played central roles in the successful 2006 Preschool Matters Denver ballot initiative, which is supporting access to preschool for thousands of Denver children, and the 2004 statewide tobacco tax initiative that is generating more than \$170 million annually for health programs, including the Child Health Plan Plus, in Colorado.

"With childhood poverty rising faster in Colorado than anywhere else in the nation, there has never been a more important time to ensure that children have a voice in the decisions being made that will impact them," said Watney. "Cody will be a strong and effective advocate for kids in the most critical discussions."

Watney said that Belzley will join the team on October 1. For more information about the Children's Campaign, including child poverty rates, please visit [www.coloradokids.org](http://www.coloradokids.org).

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**The Colorado Children's Campaign is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focusing on expanding access to quality health care, K-12 education and early childhood development. For more information, please visit [www.coloradokids.org](http://www.coloradokids.org).**