



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CITIZENS' COALITION AND STATE LAWMAKERS**  
**INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT AMENDMENT 35**

**Proposed Legislation Upholds Promise to Voters**

Senator Bob Hagedorn and Representative Betty Boyd, along with the Healthier Colorado Coalition that passed Amendment 35, today unveiled their proposal for spending new revenue generated by the increased tobacco tax.

“Voters sent a clear message on Election Day: Improving healthcare in Colorado is a top priority,” said Representative Betty Boyd. “We agree! That is why Senator Hagedorn and I are proud to be sponsoring this bill which will ensure that Amendment 35 dollars are used to strengthen Colorado’s healthcare system and reduce tobacco use, especially among kids.”

Their plan calls for using the money exactly as outlined in the amendment language.

“As the coalition that campaigned for Amendment 35, our priority is ensuring that the people of Colorado get what they voted for,” said Barbara O’Brien, co-chair of the Amendment 35 coalition and President of the Colorado Children’s Campaign.

The tax is expected to raise about \$172 million in new revenue. Under this proposal, the money would be used to expand public health insurance programs, support community clinics across the state, fund tobacco education and prevention programs and support programs to prevent, detect and treat heart and lung disease and cancer.

This legislation will mean better access to care for thousands of Coloradans. Expansions to CHP+ and Medicaid programs alone will cover more than 100,000 Coloradans who are not getting the care they need.

“We have worked closely with people on the front-lines of healthcare in Colorado today to ensure that the policies outlined in this bill will translate to improved healthcare for patients across the state,” Senator Bob Hagedorn commented.

While the measure promises immediate expansions, it also calls for a reserve fund to meet future needs of the CHP+ and Medicaid programs.

“This bill strikes the right balance of dedicating as much money as possible to meet healthcare needs today, while also making provisions for the future,” said Representative Bernie Buescher, Joint Budget Committee member and co-sponsor of the bill.

Amendment 35 passed in November with more than 61% voter support.

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