



# CCC CHILD HEALTH UPDATE

Creating Hope and Opportunity in Colorado, More Than ONE MILLION Children at a Time *May 2006*

## Child Health Issues & Alerts

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### Medicaid ID and Citizenship Requirement

Early this year, congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act. This federal legislation will, among other things, require that all citizens, including children, applying or reapplying for Medicaid after July 1, 2006 prove citizenship and identification using either a passport or a birth certificate and driver's license.

Many families do not have a copy of their child's birth certificate and the cost for obtaining one could be prohibitive for low-income parents. State IDs cost \$4.10 in addition to lost pay for time spent obtaining documents. Parents of children born out of state or in rural areas may face higher fees and difficulty getting records from afar.

In addition, most of the 258,000 children and newborn babies estimated to be enrolled in the Medicaid program next year, do not have passports or state issued photo IDs. If families are unable to produce the necessary documentation for their children, those children may be denied services. Other populations who could find it difficult to produce the necessary documentation also include seniors and disabled persons in nursing homes, people born in rural areas who may never have been issued a birth certificate, persons who are incapacitated because of a mental or physical disability and members of homeless or displaced families.

This requirement will also take a toll on state and local agencies. It will be their responsibility to notify beneficiaries of the new requirement, screen beneficiaries for documentation, and keep records of the documents. In Colorado, it is estimated that over 400,000 people will have to be screened during the next year. The Colorado Children's Campaign and other consumer advocacy groups are working with the Medical Services Board to determine the best method for implementing this new requirement.

### Three Federal Proposals that are BAD for Kids

Congress will be in recess from May 29 through June 2. Upon their return, they will be considering three proposals that could result in reduced federal investments for children:

1. **Line-Item Veto** – S. 2381/H.R. 4890 would give the President authority to change provisions of legislation already passed by Congress. Originally intended to give the President power to address pork-barrel spending in bills passed by Congress, it will also allow the President to reduce or eliminate funding for children's discretionary programs - including child care, child abuse prevention, Head Start, housing vouchers, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and the WIC program. The proposal also gives the President authority to eliminate, or scale back, any provisions in legislation already passed by Congress that increase federal costs via improvements or expansions of entitlement programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Foster Care and Adoption, Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Food Stamps.
2. **Estate Tax Reform** – Congress is considering legislation to repeal or modify the estate tax, the federal government's only tax on accumulated wealth which raises significant revenues. In the Senate, full repeal of the estate tax is unlikely to have enough support, so Senators have begun to negotiate a reform proposal, however, both the permanent repeal and the reform proposal would still jeopardize federal funding for children's services. In addition, Congress may likely reduce funding for other federal programs - which include a number of vital services desperately needed by America's children and families to make up for lost revenue.
3. **Sunset Commission** – This proposal allows the President to appoint an eight-member committee known as the Sunset Commission to review federal programs every ten years - a task already done each year by Congress through the appropriations process. The Commission would have the power to decide whether programs should continue to be funded or be eliminated. Sunset Commissions would provide the Administration with an opportunity to fail our nation's children by reducing or eliminating funding for essential programs needed by America's working families and their children.

Contact your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) while they are home for recess and ask them to oppose these proposals, all of which risk funding for vital children's services.

[www.coloradokids.org](http://www.coloradokids.org)



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### Federal Legislation: NO on the ENZI bill

Thank you to everyone who responded to the CCC's Action Alert on the Enzi bill, S. 1955 by calling and writing to Senators Salazar and Allard. This bill would have removed important state protections for well-baby care and newborn coverage. The bill was defeated in the senate by a 55-43 vote. Please take a moment to call Senator Salazar and thank him for his vote against S. 1955. His telephone number is (202) 224-5852.

### The CCC made great strides in Child Health During 2006 Legislative Session

**Early Childhood Mental Health Services:** Funding for early childhood mental health services was fully restored to its highest past level and increased by an additional \$666,750. Total allocations were increased by \$1,135,750 over last year.

**Mental Health Funding for the Indigent:** Funding for mental health care for the indigent was fully restored to its highest past level and increased by an additional \$2,175,950. In total, allocations were increased by \$7,673,184 over last year.

**Funding for Local Public Health Offices:** Funding for local and regional public health offices was close to fully restored (short by \$120,476) but received an increase of \$5,000,000 over last year's allocation.

**Funding for immunizations:** With Amendment 35 monies, immunizations were allocated an additional \$516,147.00, resulting in a total immunizations recommendation of \$1,316,147 for FY 06-07.

**Senate Bill 002, the Methamphetamine Lab Disclosure Bill:** Requires the seller of property to disclose to a potential buyer if they know that the property has been used as a meth lab. Disclosure of this potential danger will allow families with children to opt out of purchasing such property. It has been signed by the Governor.

**House Bill 1145, the Methamphetamine Omnibus Bill:** Provides for a comprehensive response to the meth epidemic by creating a statewide task force to examine and addresses the prevention, intervention and treatment of meth abuse. The bill also strengthens the ability of the judicial system to enforce child abuse laws for adults who manufacture or sell drugs in the presence of a child, requires products containing meth precursors to be behind the retail counter and requires that one must be 18 to purchase precursor drugs.

**House Bill 1396, Regarding School Based Health Centers:** School based health centers will receive \$500,000.00 to meet the needs of the 25,000 children who currently use the existing 40 school based health centers and to serve additional high-risk kids. This legislation will also support additional mental and dental health care services where they are insufficient.

**House Bill 1270, CHP+ Enrollment Project:** There are an estimated 90,000 children eligible for CHP+ who are not enrolled in the program. This bill will establish pilot projects in three schools to allow a qualified person to make determinations regarding eligibility for CHP+ at the school using information families already submit via the school lunch program.

**House Bill 1056, the Healthy Alternatives in School Vending Machine Bill:** This bill was vetoed by Governor Bill Owens, but a similar concept is now being considered by Congress. Beverage manufacturers and distributors, in collaboration with the William F. Clinton Foundation and child health advocates, have already signed a contract that will take soda out of all elementary and middle schools and eliminate the sale of any non-diet soda in high schools.





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## Staff Updates

### Josie Canales, Executive Assistant

Josie Canales plays a dual role at the Campaign as executive assistant and office manager. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for most of her career with an education policymaking organization in numerous capacities, including project assistant in the higher education unit, assistant editor in the communications department, and institute coordinator in the programs area. Josie also worked at a cancer research center as administrative assistant to the vice president of finance and administration.

### Megan Ferland, President

The Colorado Children's Campaign has announced that Megan Ferland will be the organization's new President. Ferland will officially join the Children's Campaign on July 10, 2006, after serving as the Chief Executive Officer of Texas CASA, Inc., (Court Appointed Special Advocate) since 2001.

Prior to leading the Texas CASA program, Ferland served as Chief of the Juvenile Crime Intervention Division of the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Additionally, she brings extensive experience in public policy through her work as Legislative Director in the Texas Senate and Aide in the Texas House of Representatives.

"I cannot imagine a more exciting professional opportunity than to work with an organization like the Children's Campaign, with its strong reputation and successful record," said Ferland. "I am looking forward to joining the partners, policymakers and children's advocates across Colorado who, working together, make such a difference in the lives of kids."

Ferland's appointment will fill the position at the Children's Campaign vacated by Barbara O'Brien, who in January announced her intention to run for Lieutenant Governor of Colorado. A biography and headshot of Megan Ferland are available at [www.coloradokids.org](http://www.coloradokids.org).

## CCC Events

### 2006 Annual Luncheon

The Annual Luncheon is one of the most important events every year for the Colorado Children's Campaign, including one of our largest fundraisers. The Luncheon has become a Colorado tradition, bringing together more than 800 of Colorado's most influential community and business leaders to support the Children's Campaign and focus on the pressing issues that affect our kids.

**Date:** Wednesday, September 27, 2006

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Donald R. Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Performing Arts Complex

**Tickets:** Individuals: \$75, Tables: \$750, Corporate sponsorships available

**Keynote Speaker:** *Marc Brown*, the best-selling and award-winning author of the *Arthur* series of children's books, will publish a book in 2007 that addresses unhealthy eating habits and childhood obesity. He will focus on the problem of childhood obesity in America and the effects on families and the nation at large. He'll also discuss how fast food restaurants and schools can help fight obesity. Mr. Brown is the on the Advisory Council for the Harvard Center for Society and Health. He has appeared many times at the #1 spot on the New York Times bestseller list. He has won 6 Emmy Awards. For more information on the speaker please visit [www.apbspeakers.com](http://www.apbspeakers.com) and [www.coloradokids.org](http://www.coloradokids.org)

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## Colorado Health and Issue Resources

- **Colorado Receives a "C" in Child Health:** Colorado Health Foundation  
[View rankings for key indicators of the health of Coloradoans.](#)
- **Physical Activity in the Classroom Teacher Contest:** American Heart Association  
Now teachers can help us by participating in the American Heart Association's "For Teacher, By Teacher" Activity Plan Contest. Thirty teachers who submit winning activity plans will be recognized and receive \$250. [Find out more about the contest!](#)
- **State PE Policies Analyzed:** Action for Healthy Kids  
[See how Colorado compares to other states for physical education policies.](#)
- **Healthy Start Grow Smart Brochures:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
First Lady Laura Bush's Healthy Start Grow Smart campaign is offering a series of booklets on key development points in the first year of a child's life. The series is available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. To order, go to: <http://www.ntis.gov/cms/index.aspx>
- **Connecting Care and Health in Colorado,** a guide to services for the uninsured:  
[Colorado Consumer Health Initiative](#)
- **Behavioral Health:** A new publication by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment discusses [How to Shape or Change Your Child's Behavior.](#)



## Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Opportunities

- **Mental Health Community Meetings**  
How can the state better support your local community? Forums to be held in:  
Northeast Colorado/Denver on June 2  
Denver on June 9  
South/Central Colorado/Buena Vista on June 13  
Southeast Colorado on June 5  
Southwest Colorado/Durango on June 12  
Contact Pilar at 303.548.5632 or pingarg@mindspring.com for times and locations.
- **Voices of Strength:** Weaving Multiple Approaches to Help Youth Thrive. This event features best practices and effective strategies in schools, after school programs, youth serving organizations, parent groups and communities. June 14 and 15, 2006, Radisson Denver - Stapleton Plaza. [Get more information!](#)
- **The National Conference on Immunization Coalitions:** Colorado Influenza and Pneumococcal Alert Coalition. A skill building conference for health educators, nurses, physicians, administrators and community advocates with sessions on advocacy, cultural competency, data collection and evaluation, conflict resolution, fundraising, media relations, health literacy and social marketing. August 9-11 at the Denver Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Convention Center. [Get more information!](#)
- **Save the Date: The 4th Annual Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care (CASBHC) conference** will be September 21-22, 2006. This year's theme is Motivating Youth to Reduce Risk Behavior. Check [CASBHC's website](#) for more information.



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