

The Legal Center for People  
with Disabilities and Older People



*Colorado's Protection & Advocacy System*

February 12, 2009

RE: SB09-134

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Legal Center for People with Disabilities (the designated Protection and Advocacy agency for the State of Colorado) **opposes** SB09-134. **I request that the following information be read into the record during the hearing of this Bill:**

- This Bill provides no perimeters as to the number of allowable "homes" within the "compound" boundaries. This lack of limits on the number of people residing within a "compound" could allow for the creation of the large congregate residential settings our State has worked so hard to reduce.
- Our Medicaid waivers *mandate* the "assurance of community inclusion". Thus a segregated and rural compound would not meet the important waiver mandate of inclusivity. The integrity of community acceptance and inclusion of individuals with disabilities is at stake should a segregated residential model become an option within the States current waiver scheme.
- Our State should focus not just on people being in the community but on being **part** of the community.
- Giving society a chance to know and respect individuals with disabilities will diminish the fears and myths that once caused society to segregate them. People with disabilities need an integrated place to be; opportunities for community participation; meaningful relationships; and community acceptance.

Respectfully submitted,

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