



**MONTROSE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
317 South 2nd Street  
Montrose, CO 81401  
Phone: 970-249-7755  
Fax: 970-249-7761

January 27, 2015

Representative Don Coram  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Representative Coram:

On behalf of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our support of HB15-1079 – Expand the Medicaid Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program.

Through the department of Health and Human Services, as well as collaborative programs with community partners, Montrose County works to ensure the health and well-being of our residents. Currently, this work includes a pilot program which takes a unique community and person-centered approach to teen pregnancy prevention; using highly-ranked, evidence-based, and age-appropriate counseling programs to assist Medicaid eligible at-risk teens in making responsible, reproductive health choices, while preventing unintended pregnancies. Teen mothers are more likely to drop out of high school and to receive public assistance, resulting in greater costs to the community as well as poorer outcomes for teen mothers and their children. In 2013, program providers reported that over the previous three years, only 1 of the 140 teen participants reported a pregnancy.

HB15-1079 would allow General Fund to be used to pay for 10% of the program costs. Currently the program is 90% federally funded and 10% locally funded. Not all communities have been able to find the resources to pay for the local share. Allowing state funds to be used for the local share will reduce the burden on local community resources and allow the program to be expanded statewide.

The Montrose County Board of Commissioners greatly appreciates efforts to improve the health and potential for success of not only our residents, but for all Coloradans. Therefore, we support HB15-1079 – Expand the Medicaid Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. White".

David S. White

Chairman, Montrose County Board of Commissioners