



Our Mission

The March of Dimes is dedicated to improving the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Our mission can be accomplished if all women of childbearing age, infants and children have access to comprehensive health coverage.

We urge your support of

**HB09-1353 Legal Immigrants' Eligibility
For Public Medical Benefits**

**Sponsors: Representative Miklosi
and Senator Foster**

Background: The health of Colorado's pregnant women and their infants can only be ensured when appropriate medical care is available. Approximately, 21% of Colorado's women of childbearing age have no health coverage. Uninsured women receive fewer maternity care services and report greater difficulty in obtaining needed care. Maternity care can identify and help managed health conditions that contribute to preterm birth, birth defects and infant mortality. Preventing these problems can not only improve health outcomes, but also reduce costs associated with treating premature infants.

Health insurance is the single most important influence in determining whether health care is accessible to children when they need it, according to the Institute of Medicine.

HB09-1353 would permit legal immigrant pregnant women and children to enroll in Medicaid and CHP⁺ prior to the five year waiting period, following their entry into the United States.

The March of Dimes requests you to vote in support of this bill,
moving one step closer to giving every baby a healthy start.

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