

**Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Testimony to Senate Health & Human Services Committee  
In Support of HB09-1204  
April 16, 2009**

Good afternoon Madam Chair, members of the Committee and Senator Boyd. My name is Kelly Shanahan and I am the Policy Director of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative. I am here to testify today in strong support of House Bill 1204.

CCHI supports this bill because it will substantially reduce financial barriers to critical, cost-effective preventive screenings and services. While many health plans cover the 7 specific preventive services outlined in this bill, it is often the case that financial barriers exist - in the form of deductibles and coinsurance - to consumers actually accessing those services. This bill will put these services in front of both deductibles and coinsurance.

My testimony today is not as an expert witness as I am neither a medical provider nor a payor. Instead I would like for the committee to understand the environment of a broader prevention discussion in which this bill was conceived.

Last year there was discussion around a potential bill with many of the same elements as HB 1204. This bill was never introduced, but it generated discussion among the stakeholders that continued into the summer and fall. The Colorado Association of Health Plans and the Colorado Medical Society met for several months as a result developing principles around prevention coverage. Additionally, the Colorado Clinical Guidelines Collaborative spent many months last year developing a "prevention guideline" for primary care doctors in our state.

Broad based discussions continued around this bill. The current form of HB 1204 is the result of a very collaborative process. The following organizations have been at the table and support HB 1204 as amended in the House:

- San Luis Valley HMO
- Colorado Association of Health Plans
- Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Kaiser Permanente
- Aetna
- Cigna
- Humana
- Colorado Medical Society
- Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
- American Cancer Society
- Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

I would like to specifically thank Dr. Betsy Thompson and Cindy Palmer of the San Luis Valley HMO for authoring this bill. I would also like to thank the Colorado Association of Health Plans for their leadership role in facilitating stakeholder discussions and negotiations on this bill. This is a very important piece of legislation. I ask for your support of HB 1204.

Thank you.