

**MR. CHAIRMAN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU ON THE IMPORTANCE TO SENIORS OF HB 1273. MY NAME IS JOHN STOFFEL AND I RESIDE IN SOUTHEAST DENVER, HOUSE DISTRICT 9. TODAY I NOT ONLY SPEAK FOR MYSELF BUT ALSO FOR THE MORE THAN 30,000 COLORADOANS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS. I HAVE GIVEN YOU A LETTER THAT DESCRIBES OUR ORGANIZATION.**

**I ENDORSE THE TESTIMONY OF THOSE THAT HAVE TESTIFIED HERE TODAY in support of HB1273 AND WILL TRY NOT TO BE REPUTITIOUS**

**IT IS RECOGNIZED BY ALMOST EVERYONE THAT OUR CURRENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN. WE PAY MORE FOR HEALTHCARE THAN ANY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY FOR OUTCOMES THAT ARE NEAR THE BOTTOM.**

**SENIORS WHO ARE DEPENDANT ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE CANNOT AFFORD ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE OR MEDICINES BECAUSE OF THE COPAYS AND THE DONUT HOLE.**

**MANY OF THESE ARE BARELY ABLE TO AFFORD FOOD AND SHELTER.**

**THESE SAME SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD THE COST OF SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES OR THE ADVANTAGE PLANS UPON WHICH THOSE OF US WHO ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE ADEQUATE PENSIONS RELY. WITH BUSINESSES ELIMINATING PENSIONS THERE WILL BE LESS AND LESS SENIORS WITH ADEQUATE PENSIONS. IF THEY CANNOT AFFORD MEDICAL CARE THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THE EMERGENCY ROOMS THIS, OF COURSE, INCREASES THE COST OF CARE AND INCREASES THE COST SHIFTING THAT THE HOSPITALS USE TO COVER THEIR COSTS.**

**AS THE REPORT OF THE 208 COMMISSION SHOWS, UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE WILL NOT ONLY BE A LIFESAVER FOR THESE SENIORS BUT WILL SAVE THE STATE AND ITS CITIZENS MONEY WHILE PROVIDING BETTER HEALTHCARE FOR US ALL. DO NOT TURN YOUR BACKS ON THE SENIORS AND OTHERS WHO ARE UNINSURED OR UNDER INSURED AND TAKE THIS FIRST STEP TOWARD A UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.**