



Honorable Jim Riesberg, Chair
Health & Human Services Committee &
Honorable Committee Members

January 15, 2009

On behalf of the members of the Colorado Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA), we would like to thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

CARA is an active and strong voice for over 500,000 retirees in the state of Colorado. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security. CARA believes that all older and retired persons have a right and responsibility to live in a society that incorporates goals that provide opportunities to pursue new and expanded activities with their civic organizations, unions and their communities.

CARA's membership includes a diverse group of seniors involved in the private sector, unions, civic and community organizations. The Colorado Alliance **Does Not Endorse** candidates. Endorsements are made by the National Alliance.

OBJECTIVES

BUILD a strong organization of seniors with ample resources,

ENROLL and mobilize retired community activist, union members and other seniors into a statewide grass root movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda. One that helps strengthen families, and the voice for all older Americans,

MONITOR legislation to inform members about how new laws will affect them,

IMPLEMENT a communication network to educate members about issues and developments that affect them as individuals and their families,

INFLUENCE legislation on a national, state and local level that involves:

- *Prescription Drug Cost
- *Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid
- *Pensions and Retirement
- *Long term and Home Health Care
- *Community Services, etc...,

ADVOCATE for the preservation of programs that are vital to the health and economic security of older Americans,

IMPROVE Older Americans Act programs and financing,

CONDUCT Voter education and registration projects,

IDENTIFY job opportunities for older citizens,

SAFEGUARD pensions and other retirement benefits,

ADVOCATE AND SUPPORT programs that assist people with disabilities to stay in their homes,

RECOMMEND, ADVOCATE and SUPPORT affordable and accessible transportation options.

CARA continues to encourage all segments of the senior population to work in unity on legislation, political and policy issues of importance to retirees and their families in order to maximize influence on federal, state and local governments and private organizations that affect our interests.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully,

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