

**Angela Williams Testimony  
For Senate Bill 88  
February 4, 2009**

Good Afternoon:

My name is Angela Williams, a business owner, a community activist from the Stapleton Neighborhood in Denver, Colorado. I am also, Vice Chair of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce.

I come before you today to voice my personal support for Senator Bill 88, sponsored by Senator Jennifer Viega and Representative Mark Ferrandino. This Bill offers extension of State Employee Group Benefits to Domestic Partners. The Denver Post stated in its Editorial "Yes, But Not Now. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in the Civil Rights Movement, "If Not Now – When." I believe that the time is now because there will never be the right time. Let me share a letter, that have I received from a member of our Denver Community.

*"My partner and I have been together for 17 years. We are the first couple to register for the Domestic Partnership registry that Denver put forth in 1990. We now are able obtain health benefits under the regulations enacted by the City and County of Denver employee rules. During the 1<sup>st</sup> year we had this insurance, my partner had to go in for a simple but necessary surgery. Without the insurance, she would have needed to rely on the State and the City taxpayers to foot the bill for the surgery because we simply could not have paid for it.*

*During the time period that health insurance for same sex partners was being proposed there was a small group of City of Denver Employees that did research to determine what the "cost" of such a program would be for obtaining insurance for same sex partners. I believe it was less than a nickel a year per employee.*

*The cost is huge to the citizens of Colorado for an uninsured or underinsured individual, of this, there can be no doubt.", - Nena Waterman, Denver, Colorado*

This is but one letter, but I can submit others to you from those who ask for your help. Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Williams  
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