

LSB-A 1:30pm 1/26/2009

HB09-1020

**GREETING**

Good afternoon, Chairman Reisberg and committee members.

I am Jean Nofles, one of 700,000 AARP members in the state of Colorado.

I am testifying in support of HB09-1020.

**SEGUE**

AARP is an organization that advocates in support of older Americans. AARP is also an intergenerational organization that advocates in support of quality, affordable and accessible health care and financial security for all Americans. We, as older Americans, understand the link between good medical care in childhood and healthy older adults. Healthy older Americans, are less costly to the health care system, and are one of the products of good, consistent, quality, continuous health care in infancy and childhood.

Many of us are grandparents. Some of us have the full responsibility of providing health care for our grandchildren. And, historically, the re-enrollment process has been unduly cumbersome and, sometimes, acted as a barrier to access.

**CONTENT**

HB 1020 makes it possible for us, as parents and grandparents, to extend continuity of health care to our children and grandchildren. By removing obstacles and simplifying the re-enrollment process, HB 1020 increases the likelihood that Colorado's needy children will have a longer continuum of care and enjoy a healthier childhood. Over time, healthy children, translates into a healthier Colorado...and healthier older Coloradans.

**CONCLUSION**

I know that you are aware of the impact the economic downturn has had on families. I also know that you are aware of additional benefits that will accrue to the state as a result of more accessible health care for children. So, as a parent, grandparent and Colorado resident, I ask that you pass HB09-1020.