



CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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COLORADO BECOMES LEADER IN CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE POLICY

First Lady Frances Owens & Colorado Lawmakers Applaud Submission of Medicaid Waiver to Implement Landmark Policy for Colorado Children with Life-Threatening Conditions

DENVER – Colorado's congressional delegation Thursday lauded a new pediatric program for hundreds of children in the Rocky Mountain State with life-threatening conditions and their families, which could soon be available under Medicaid through "The Butterfly Program" at The Children's Hospital Denver.

The Butterfly Program is one of six initial pilot programs to receive federal funding for an innovative approach developed by Children's Hospice International (CHI) of Alexandria, VA – with technical assistance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – called "The Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families" or "CHI PACC."

First Lady Frances Owens, Senate Minority Leader Andy McElhany (R-Colorado Springs), **former state Rep. Dr. John Witwer**, The Butterfly Program officials, families, and others applauded a two-year effort by Governor Bill Owens and state legislators – to submit a federal waiver to CMS to implement CHI PACC in Colorado – at a news briefing at the state Capitol today. Colorado's bipartisan Congressional delegation joined in the chorus of support for the program.

Mrs. Owens, who toured The Butterfly Program with **CHI Founding Director and CEO Ann Armstrong-Dailey** in December 2005, praised the state's "leadership and dedication" to the innovative national CHI PACC effort: "Colorado's leadership on this important program is significant and is a model for the nation," Owens said.

Once approved and fully implemented, Colorado will become the 2nd state in the nation to pursue CHI PACC implementation. It has been estimated that over 4,000 children in Colorado could potentially benefit from this waiver. Florida became the first state to implement CHI PACC in June 2005.

Dr. Brian Greffe, who serves as Medical Director of The Butterfly Program – Colorado's CHI PACC program – and as National CHI PACC Director, noted that "the state of Colorado has just unveiled its formal waiver submission to CMS, which is the first step toward actual implementation of the landmark program."

"The life and death of Emily Totten and Kia Jefferson hold a lesson for us all," said **Mrs. Owens**, referring to two children whose mothers spoke at the press event. "These wonderful children, and so many more, right here in Colorado, faced their illnesses with courage and grace. As their lives drew to an end, they received compassionate care that met the specific needs that they and their families faced. All children with life-limiting conditions deserve such care, and with this action we can help make that a reality."

Armstrong-Dailey said the CHI PACC program is designed to provide "more compassionate care for children and their families at the time of diagnosis, with hope for cure, through bereavement if necessary."

"While our focus has always been to provide better, more comprehensive health care for these special children and families, this common-sense approach also creates significant cost-savings, in addition to a better quality of care," said **Armstrong-Dailey**. "In Colorado alone, CHI PACC saves an estimated \$22,000 per child, per year."

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Armstrong-Dailey praised Colorado's federal lawmakers for their ongoing support for the CHI PACC program throughout the process. In a December 20, 2005 letter, cosigned by all nine members of the Colorado delegation, the federal leaders lauded the merits of Colorado's CHI PACC, which has been under development at the Children's Hospital in Denver since 2001. The Butterfly Program has been serving patients and families since 1999.

In anticipation of today's news, the bipartisan delegation, including both U.S. Senators, expressed their appreciation for the program.

"I wholeheartedly support the efforts of Children's Hospice International, especially the current efforts in Colorado. I believe The Butterfly Program will bring hope and comfort to the children of Colorado and their families," said **U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO)**. "I look forward to the approval of the federal waiver by CMS, and I will continue to support Children's Hospice International, The Butterfly Program and the good work that they are accomplishing in our state."

"By providing key support services to children and their families as they cope with life-threatening conditions, we are all working to ensure that the immediate needs of our most fragile citizens are met," said **U.S. Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO)**. "This is a significant contribution toward the quality of life of Colorado's most courageous children and families."

"I am confident the CHI PACC model will play an integral role in the delivery of better care for our children being treated at The Butterfly Program," said **U.S. Congressman Bob Beauprez (R-CO)**. "I eagerly await the approval of Colorado's Medicaid waiver application."

U.S. Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO) agreed: "I am pleased with the process this important program is making. Each step forward brings us closer to realizing the goal of providing improved care to children and their families."

"Thanks to the hard work from Children's Hospice International, Colorado's children and their families will now have access to the Butterfly Project," said **U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO)**. "This vital program will greatly improve health care to those who need it the most."

"While we should do everything that we can to provide quality health care for every child from birth, we also need to make sure they receive better, more compassionate care at the end of life. With this waiver, Colorado can lead the way and serve as a model for the rest of the nation," said **U.S. Congressman Mark Udall (D-CO)**.

CHI PACC provides better quality care for children with life-threatening conditions and their families, while at the same time reducing costs, resulting in savings for the states and federal governments through Medicaid. CHI is also working on a model for U.S. military families through the Department of Defense and the Tri Care system.

"We are deeply grateful for the support of Colorado's elected officials at both the federal and state levels in this worthy endeavor – and I look forward to our continued working relationship as we keep this program moving forward," said **Armstrong-Dailey**.

For more information about the Colorado or national CHI PACC initiatives, or about Children's Hospice International, please call 703.684.0330 or go to www.chionline.org.