



# CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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## **COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BACKS NEW INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE WAIVER FOR CHILDREN IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

*Denver's Dr. Brian Greffe Named National Director of Newly-Approved Children's Health Program*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- U. S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) was joined by Dr. Brian Greffe, of Children's Hospital / Denver, and Ann Armstrong Dailey, of Children's Hospice International, at an event Thursday on Capitol Hill, adding his voice to a growing chorus of Congressional support for a program to help sick children and their families in the Rocky Mountain region under Medicaid.

Tancredo and senior staff members from Colorado's Congressional delegation gathered to announce their support for an innovative program benefiting thousands of children in need (and their families) under Medicaid in Colorado and the region.

Specifically, Tancredo and the staff – representing U.S. Senators Wayne Allard (R-CO), Ken Salazar (D-CO), and U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO) lauded the merits of “The Butterfly Program,” a demonstration project which has been under development at Children's Hospital in Denver for three years.

They said a recent decision by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will make a new set of benefits to approximately 4,000 children in Colorado with life-threatening conditions and their families through a new waiver program. The program, developed by Children's Hospice International (CHI) with technical assistance from the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS), is called the “Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families” or “CHI PACC.”

Colorado will soon unveil its formal CHI PACC waiver submission to CMS – the first step toward actual implementation of a landmark program in the Western region. The program can also be adapted to help U.S. military families.

“CHI PACC represents a win-win-win for the federal and state governments – and for families,” said Tancredo. “The children and families of Colorado, and our neighboring states, need this as soon as possible. I am thrilled that our state is a leader in making it happen,” said Tancredo.

During his remarks, Tancredo also praised the recent appointment of Dr. Brian Greffe, who has served as a staff oncologist at Children's Hospital since 1989 and director of the Butterfly Program for six years, to the position of national director of the CHI PACC Program.

“We are all proud that Colorado is the first state on many fronts,” said Allard. “This is the first program of its kind in the West; and the first that will serve children from an entire region, including patients not only from Colorado, but also from Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota and Wyoming.”

“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 Senator Salazar. “This is a significant contribution toward the quality of life of Colorado's most courageous children and families.”

Hefley agreed, noting that he and other members of the delegation will soon request that HHS strongly consider Colorado's waiver submission. "This waiver will bring improved care to children and families in the Rocky Mountain Region. CHI PACC ensures that families in Colorado will no longer have to choose between the hospice and palliative care services that they so desperately need -- or the possibility of a cure," said Hefley.

Said U.S. Congressman Bob Beauprez (R-CO): "Although CHI PACC is just a part of the overall solution to the Medicaid problem, it is an effective one. I am proud of Dr. Greffe and his work to help provide better, more compassionate care for these children and their families."

Beauprez noted that the first four demonstrations – in Florida, Colorado, New York and Utah – have shown potentially significant cost savings for Medicaid. (The Colorado program is estimated to save approximately \$22,000 per child patient per year.)

"Finding affordable health care is a problem throughout the country. Rural Coloradoans face an even greater challenge with health care access. As Congress searches for ways to help our citizens with health care, CHI-PACC has come forward with a flexible, innovative model of care," said U.S. Congressman John Salazar.

Members of the delegation noted that, because it is flexible, the CHI PACC program is positioned to provide immediate assistance to children and families who have been traumatized (mentally and physically) by Hurricane Katrina and other disasters, in the states providing their care.

"Colorado's leadership on this important program is significant and is a model for the nation," said U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO).

"The Colorado waiver represents a truly successful federal-state partnership that offers hope and more compassionate care for thousands of Colorado families. I congratulate Dr. Greffe on his appointment – and I look forward to working with members of the Colorado delegation to promote the successful implementation of this program in our state," said U.S. Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO).

"I am pleased to serve as National Director of this forward-looking program – and I am proud that Colorado is a leader in this important initiative," said Greffe. "I have no doubt that every state in this nation will embrace CHI PACC as part of their needed services for children -- and we are on the leading edge."

CHI Founder Ann Armstrong-Dailey concurred, asking members of Congress to embrace CHI PACC "as one important part of the solution in Medicaid reform.

"CHI PACC is uniquely positioned as a true partner with families, health care providers, the federal government and the states, to provide better, more compassionate care for children and families. I am deeply grateful for the support of the Colorado's elected officials in this worthy endeavor – and I look forward to our continued working relationship as we work to 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](http://www.chionline.org).

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