



**Media Release**  
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## **Another 100,000 Kids Covered and Counting** *Ritter Administration Ensures Health Coverage for Colorado Children*

Denver —July 27, 2010 — The All Kids Covered Initiative, a coalition of partners committed to improving health care for Colorado kids, today celebrated the milestone of health coverage for more than 100,000 children since Governor Bill Ritter took office in January 2007.

“By strengthening health coverage for children, we are doing the right thing for our children and state,” said Governor Bill Ritter. “But we have a long way to go. We can’t stop until every child has coverage. We need to make it as easy for children in Colorado to get health insurance as it is for them to check out a library book. “

Since January of 2007, Ritter’s Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has ensured health coverage for almost 83,000 children through Medicaid and nearly 23,000 through CHP+, for a total of 106,000 kids.

“Unlike many health problems facing kids in our country today, a lack of coverage is something we can collectively solve,” said Joan Henneberry, HCPF Executive Director. “We are making real progress. It’s time to finish the job.”

Despite significant strides made during the past several years, thousands of Colorado children remain uninsured. Organizations like All Kids Covered and other community partners will continue to work with Governor Ritter and Director Henneberry to educate families about health coverage opportunities and enroll eligible children in public health care programs.

“Providing health coverage helps ensure our kids have the opportunity to grow into healthy adults, who live, work and thrive in every Colorado community,” said Gretchen Hammer, Executive Director, Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved and All Kids Covered Lead Partner. “We are grateful for Governor Ritter’s leadership and the tireless efforts of his administration, and know it does not compare to the peace of mind felt by the families of the over 100,000 kids who have been able to access care as a result.”

To celebrate the coverage of 100,000 kids under the Ritter Administration and ensure those still in need remain at the forefront, the 40-plus organizations that make up the All Kids Covered Initiative held a “100-Yard Kids’ Dash to the Finish Line” along with other activities.

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*As a non-partisan coalition of more than 40 organizations, the All Kids Covered Initiative is committed to helping kids reach their fullest potential by advocating for sound policy and building public will. Leading organizations include Colorado Children’s Campaign, the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, Colorado Covering Kids and Families, and Metro Organizations for People.*

**Our opportunity is now. Colorado kids can’t wait.**

Learn more at [www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org](http://www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org)