

## **Support Home Health Care Amendment to SB 263 offered by Sen. Suzanne Williams**

**This amendment calls for parity in future Medicaid rate increases. If in the future (July 1, 2010 and beyond) there is money for rate increases, all long term care providers would receive the same % of increase. There is no fiscal impact to the state in Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10. In future fiscal years, the seated legislature at that time will decide if there will be any fiscal impact and what that fiscal impact will be.**

SB 263 calls for up to 5% cost increase in nursing home reimbursement in FY 2010-11, which according to JBC staff is \$18,768,495. In the past, nursing homes have consistently received much higher % of annual cost increases than home health and other providers without regard for the economy or the state budget. **This amendment levels the playing field for all providers on the continuum of long-term care.**

All Long-Term Care providers hire from the same pool of caregivers (which is insufficient now and will become more insufficient after 2011.) Home is where sick, frail and elderly citizens usually prefer to be and this setting is the most economical and efficient health care setting. In fact, in Colorado, home care agencies care for 2/3 of the Medicaid long-term clients for 1/3 of the funding; and nursing homes serve 1/3 of the clients for 2/3 of the money.

**All Long-Term Care providers have a place along the continuum, but none is more important than any other. Please help us choose home for all Coloradans.**

### **SUPPORT HOME HEALTH CARE AMENDMENT TO SB 263**

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