



Good Evening. I am Dr. Irene Aguilar. I have worked for Denver Health and Hospitals for over 20 years. During this time I have observed the growing crisis in the health care system. I have seen my patient population change from primarily those affected by poverty, homelessness and unemployment to many people with full time jobs who cannot afford health insurance. I have seen people come to me at the end stages of a disease which might have been treatable if they had health received care sooner. **The Health Care Failure is another Wall Street. Once again, the Profit First Market has failed the American people.**

We need comprehensive reform, not a band-aid. The market hasn't solved this problem, and its not going to as long as big insurance, medical supply and drug companies are profiting at our expense. We need to put our health care dollars to work for us again, not for special interests, by this money to provide patient care and not to make a profit. We shouldn't allow companies to **deny us health care**. We need to cover everyone and not exclude patients who actually need health care. With a single payer system EVERYONE is In and NO ONE is out. There will be no overriding doctors' decisions about what

their patients need for profits. **Insurance companies ration Care. A single payer system is about Patients, not Profit.**

Colorado residents deserve health care that they can count on for a lifetime. As our lives change – we switch jobs, start a business, get hit with a major illness, or lose a spouse- we shouldn't also have to worry that we'll lose our doctor. And in tough economic times- like now, when we have a recession with layoffs and business closings- people who lose their jobs shouldn't also lose their health insurance. The number of uninsured has risen 10% in Colorado due to the recession. 880,000 are without health insurance. That's 19% of our population. Medicare enrollment has grown to 500,000 – another 10% of our population. Because of Tabor Colorado can't afford this! **We need a Single Payer system that guarantees comprehensive, affordable Health Care for All Colorado and DECREASES, I repeat, DECREASES, overall health care spending. Single Payer allows Colorado to have its cake and eat it, too. Save money AND cover everyone.**

Our market based health care system has failed Coloradans. It profits from denying care. Coloradans care about one another. Comprehensive health care reform with single payer financing is both the moral and fiscally conservative way to provide care for our people.

The profit first health care businesses are doing their worst, spreading lies in an attempt to maintain their profits and keep Americans from getting the care they so desperately need. You, our

citizens, must be the heroes. Stand up, and speak up, for a uniquely Colorado plan.

We have a health care emergency. Americans are suffering and dying because of the failure of market based health care. Every week that we delay health care reforms 700 Coloradans lose their health insurance. 16,653 Americans file for bankruptcy due to medical illness and up to 423 Americans die. We can't wait any longer. It's an emergency. We have to act now to end the suffering and death.

Let us pledge to honor the memory of the great Senator Ted Kennedy who in 1978 stated "We can make health care a basic right for all, not just an expensive privilege for the few." He restated his hope right here in Denver at the Democratic National convention. He said, "And this is the cause of my life — new hope that we will break the old gridlock and guarantee that every American — north, south, east, west, young, old — will have decent, quality health care as a fundamental right and not a privilege."

Let us make this a reality. As Senator Kennedy stated "The Work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on."