



Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 01, 2008

CONTACT

Zach Zaslow

Senate Majority Policy Director

(303) 866-5549

**HAGEDORN HONORED FOR LEGISLATIVE EXCELLENCE
IN PUBLIC HEALTH REVITALIZATION**

DENVER—Senator Bob Hagedorn (D-Aurora) was honored today for his work on a critical component of health care reform.

The Colorado Public Health Association presented Hagedorn with their **Legislative Excellence Award** this morning for his work on Senate Bill 08-194, the Public Health Revitalization Act of 2008. Senator Hagedorn was the prime sponsor of the landmark bill to update, restructure, and improve Colorado’s public health laws.

“Our outdated public health laws were more concerned with scarlet fever than with diabetes or heart disease. This wide-ranging reorganization will modernize Colorado’s public health system, allowing us to enhance prevention efforts, cut health care costs, and expand access to quality public health services in every community in our state,” said Hagedorn.

Public health services treat disease and injury and keep healthcare costs low by promoting healthy behavior to prevent chronic and expensive conditions.

“Senator Hagedorn was the catalyst and leader behind this first major public health legislation in decades. We applaud his effort and thank him for his dedication to this important cause. His leadership and health care expertise in the legislature will be sorely missed,” said Tracey Maruyama, president of the Colorado Public Health Association. Hagedorn will retire from the Senate this year as a result of term limits.

Colorado’s outdated public health statutes had created a fractured system inadequate to supply high quality public health services across the state. In response, SB-194:

- Expands the powers and duties of the State Board of Health to strengthen state and local health plans and establish a minimum set of public health services and standards

- Streamlines local public health agencies and empowers local boards of health
- Deletes outdated and obsolete provisions, including references to scarlet fever, cowpox, and cholera

The Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) is a professional association for people engaged in public health service. The group, a chapter of the American Public Health Association, advocates for public and environmental health and works to bring people together for an exchange of health and environmental ideas. The CPHA Award for Legislative Excellence, established in 1988, is awarded to a person or organization for highly visible past or present legislative efforts within Colorado or the United States in support of public health issues.