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Rocky Mountain News

HEALTH CARE

Plan OK'd to cover low-income kids

Bernadette Molina is among the 180,000 Colorado children without health care because her mother, who manages a condominium complex, can't afford health insurance.

"My mom is the hardest-working single mother ever," the 14-year-old said in a letter to lawmakers Wednesday. "But as many hours as she works, she still can't pay off one emergency room visit. This isn't right."

The girl's mother, Susan Molina, was among a half-dozen witnesses to testify on behalf of a measure to provide health care coverage for all low-income children by 2010.

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee voted 6-3 in favor of Senate Bill 211, by Sen. Bob Hagedorn, D-Aurora, and Rep. Anne McGihon, D-Denver.

Sen. Shawn Mitchell, R-Broomfield, blasted the Democrats for rushing through a major health care reform measure that would increase the state's Medicaid costs by an estimated \$164 million by 2010.

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