



# Defend Colorado Now

## A pro-citizen, pro-legal-immigrant amendment to the Colorado constitution to deny non-emergency public services to persons unlawfully present in Colorado

Are you disturbed your hard-earned dollars are going to pay for services in Colorado to those unlawfully present in the United States?

"Most Coloradans still see the United States as the world's melting pot, but three-quarters believe illegal immigrants are a 'burden' on the country." — *Rocky Mountain News*, Oct. 19, 2005

### What is Defend Colorado Now?

Defend Colorado Now (DCN) is a citizens' initiative that would amend the Colorado constitution to prevent persons unlawfully present in Colorado from receiving publicly funded services that are not required by federal law. If DCN supporters collect the required number of voter-registered signatures, the proposed amendment will be placed on the ballot for voter approval in November, 2006.

### What is an initiative?

An initiative is a petition procedure that allows registered voters in Colorado to propose a law and submit it to the voters for approval. In Colorado, approximately 68,000 valid petition signatures are required to place a proposed law on the ballot that will amend the Colorado Constitution.

*The key sections of the initiative read as follows:*

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

#### **SECTION 1.**

Article V of the Colorado constitution is amended  
BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

#### **SECTION 51.**

Restrictions on Non-Emergency Services.

(1) Except as mandated by federal law, the provision of non-emergency services by the state of Colorado, or any county, city, or other political subdivision thereof, is restricted to citizens of and aliens lawfully present in the United States of America.

*(Read additional subsections at [www.DefendColoradoNow.org](http://www.DefendColoradoNow.org)).*

## Some of what the amendment will do:

- Will prevent persons unlawfully present in Colorado from receiving publicly funded services that are not directly related to public safety and medical emergencies, and services that are not required by federal law.
  - Will save scarce state tax dollars and ensure expenditures reach intended recipients.
  - Will prevent private agencies using state funds (such as organizations receiving publicly funded grants or contracts) from providing services (not required by the federal government) to persons unlawfully present in Colorado.
  - Will prevent persons unlawfully present in Colorado from receiving in-state college tuition.
  - Federal dollars will be saved, because Colorado matching funds will not be going to match federal dollars for unnecessary services to persons unlawfully present in Colorado.
  - Will be binding on all Colorado municipalities, political subdivisions, special districts and quasi-governmental institutions that receive public funds.
- Note:** *The Colorado General Assembly has power to define emergency services that will be exempt from this amendment and to enact reasonable and appropriate provisions to implement this amendment.*

## Some of what the amendment will not do:

- Will not apply to citizens or others who are lawfully present in the Colorado.
- Will not prevent children from receiving K-12 public education.
- Will not restrict information services that are routinely and generally distributed to the public.
- Will not subject public employees to individual legal liability.
- Will not lead to discrimination based on race, ethnicity or national origins.

### Your help is needed now!

*DCN's six-month statewide signature collecting begins in mid-January. To overcome the inevitable rejection by the Secretary of State of invalid (non-voter-registered) signatures, we need to collect 100,000 signatures. We need your help today!*

### Join the Defend Colorado Now team today!

- I support Defend Colorado Now and will sign a petition.
- I will try to get 12 signatures in 12 days.
- I will try to get 100 signatures in 3 weeks.
- I belong to an organization that might support DCN and help circulate petitions.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, I will contribute to the initiative.

Opposition to the DCN effort is formidable and well organized. Your contribution to DCN, no matter how large or small **will** make a difference in helping obtain the required number of signatures. *(Not tax-deductible).*

- To quickly sign up online as a supporter, go to [www.DefendColoradoNow.org](http://www.DefendColoradoNow.org)**

*Or - mail the above information to us at the address listed on the reverse side, along with your name, address, phone and email address.*