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Local Organization Catalyst for New Law – Youth Now Able to Serve on Nonprofit Boards of Directors

Larimer County, CO – Civic-minded youth who previously have been banned from serving on nonprofit boards of directors now may do so, thanks to the Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) that suggested State Representative Angie Paccione take the issue to the legislature.

Late last week, Governor Bill Owens signed House Bill 1224 making it legal for youth under 18 years old to officially serve on nonprofit boards with full voting rights. Colorado joins 40 other states that give young people civic and leadership opportunities by allowing them to serve on nonprofit boards.

“This is significant because it allows youth to actually participate in their communities across Colorado,” said Mary Robertson, HCC chairman of the board and executive director of FirstCall 211. “Research clearly shows that when youth become actively engaged in their community, they feel more connected, less alienated and they learn what it takes to make a difference. When youth who are active in their communities become adults, they are more likely to continue to vote, to volunteer and to participate in the civic life of the community in which they live.”

House Bill 1224 was sponsored by Paccione and State Senator Andy McElheny.

“Nonprofit organizations statewide are indebted to Representative Paccione and all the legislators who helped pass this bill,” said Kim Sharpe, HCC coordinator. “Thanks to her hard work and perseverance, the decisions we make and work we do for our communities will be enhanced by the voices of our youth.”

For information about how youth can become nonprofit board members, contact HCC at 495.7503 or krs4@pvhs.org.

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The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County is an alliance of nonprofit, education, health, business, government and citizen leaders who collaboratively identify, develop and implement strategies to improve the health and well-being of county residents. Established in 1994 and located in Fort Collins, Colorado, HHC’s special focus since 2002 has been on improving the lives of our youth.

Board Representation

*Boys & Girls Clubs of
Larimer County*

City of Fort Collins

Colorado State University

District Attorney’s Office

Enck Resources

FirstCall 211

*Health District of
Northern Larimer County*

*Larimer County Department
of Health & Environment*

McKee Medical Center

Poudre School District

Poudre Valley Health System

Thompson School District

*Wingshadow Inc.
Eagle Homes*