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EXECUTIVE ORDER Reestablishing the Governor's Advocate Corps

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order reestablishing the Governor's Advocate Corps and designating the Advocates community representatives of the Office of the Governor.

1. Background and Purpose.

The Governor's Advocate Corps ("Corps") was originally established for the primary purpose of assisting Colorado citizens with state government issues and concerns. The Corps was established in 1993 by Executive Order D 0010 93. I am reestablishing the Advocate Corps because the citizens of Colorado are entitled to have a state government that is concerned and responsive to their needs. The Governor's Advocates serve as special representatives of members of the public to agencies in state government to try to assist them with interaction with those agencies.

In an effort to create and maintain a state government that takes a hands-on approach to constituent cases, the Governor's Advocate Corps provides citizens with a clear and direct method of registering and resolving their complaints and problems. In addition to the establishment of the Advocate Office, key personnel have been identified and empowered throughout state government to reduce bureaucratic red tape and assist constituents in resolving issues.

In addition to responding to issues that are related to state government, I have asked the Governors Advocates Corps to serve the State at the community level by attending organization events as representatives of the Governor's Office. Their participation in community events will stimulate open communications with constituents and the advocates to have current information about a wide range of community concerns.

2. Mission.

The Governor's Advocate Corps is hereby reestablished. The mission of the Corps is:

- A. To provide Colorado citizens with a mechanism to interact with state government on an individual case by case basis.

B. To examine cases received by mail, e-mail, or fax and properly identify the handling of the cases. The Corps should only address those issues that are within the jurisdiction of state government.

C. Ensure that cases received by the Governor's Advocate Corps are forwarded onto the proper state agency for handling and response and to follow up on the progress of the recipient agency on resolution of the matter.

D. To maintain a government-wide computer tracking system, with the capacity to provide up-to-date information on case progress and case resolution.

E. To require reporting from all agency advocate offices to the Governor's Advocate Corps to coordinate activities on individual client cases.

F. To keep and regularly update a Governor's Advocacy Booklet in English and in Spanish containing information about the issues each state agency handles and offering guidance to enable citizens to contact individual agencies or the appropriate division within the agency.

G. To assist the Office of the Governor in its public relations mission by attending community events, including but not limited to, town meetings, rallies, forums, reward and recognition ceremonies, conferences, and leadership institutes.

3. Past Executive Orders Superseded and Replaced.

This Executive Order shall repeal and supersede all previous executive orders pertaining to the Governor's Advocate Corps, and specifically Executive Order D 0010 93, Establishing the Governor's Advocate Corps.

4. Duration.

This Executive Order shall remain in force until modified or terminated by further executive order of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 21st day
of September, 2000.

Bill Owens
Governor