

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 28, 2007

Contact: Luke O'Dell  
Phone: (970) 222-0916

## **Democrats gutting immigration compromise**

**DENVER, CO:** General Assembly Democrats are forcing a last minute bill through the legislature that would weaken provisions of the employer identification law, HB06-1023, passed during last summer's special legislative session. Members of the Republican Study Committee of Colorado (RSCC) are leading the charge against this change.

The measure, HB07-1314, sponsored by Representative Mike Cerbo (D-Denver) and Senator Peter Groff (D-Denver), extends rule deadlines for the Department of Revenue applicable to the identification of those who receive state benefits. The measure could also allow non-secure documents to be used as valid forms of identification.

The bill is expected to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote in the Senate tomorrow, but even on its current fast-track the measure won't reach Governor Bill Ritter's desk until the end of the week, failing to properly extend the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline outlined in HB06-1023.

"The greater the number of documents allowed for identification purposes, the greater the opportunity for forgery. That fact that the number of Medicaid recipients decreased precipitously since the

passage of HB06-1023 proves that the tighter ID requirements are saving the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. Any adjustments to these ID requirements must be carefully addressed by the legislature, not by government bureaucrats," declared Senator David Schultheis (R-Colorado Springs), an RSCC founding member.

"I don't think it is out of the question to hold government agencies accountable to deadlines passed by the legislature," added Representative Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs), the RSCC Chairman.

"HB07-1314 is a backdoor attempt by the Democrats to reverse last session's immigration identification laws through bureaucratic technicalities and procedural double speak," said Lambert.

-RSCC-