

# RESPIRE CARE:

Support for those who care the most

## THE FACTS

**1 out of every 5 Coloradans live with a serious short- or long-term medical condition**

such as autism, chronic illness or mental health conditions.



They depend on help and support from more than



**800,000 caregivers here in Colorado.**

**Respite care provides support and relief for family caregivers so they can:**

- Attend to their own health needs
- Maintain responsibilities and employment
- Provide a meaningful and healthy life for those under their care

Given respite care's critical role to the health care system, its



**\$6 billion in economic value<sup>1</sup>**



and its role in improving Coloradans lives, **it deserves more attention and support.**

<sup>1</sup> "Valuing the Invaluable: 2011 Update, The Economic Value of Family Caregiving in 2009", AARP Public Policy Institute

## A DEEPER DIVE INTO COLORADO'S RESPIRE CARE NETWORK:



**Why do we need a strong respite care network?**

- Demonstrates cost savings for health providers, insurers and taxpayers
- Improves quality of life for Colorado's more than 800,000 caregivers
- Reduces emergency medical expenses for caregivers
- Strengthens and preserves family units

### How we improve respite care in Colorado:

Systematic issues – like funding, access to care and red tape – keep Coloradans from the care they need. We can improve lives and reduce future burdens to taxpayers by:

- Conducting a return-on-investment study to demonstrate the economic impact of respite care
- Developing a statewide training system for providers
- Expanding the Colorado Respite Coalition's website to serve as a hub for respite care resources
- Developing a centralized community outreach and education program while leveraging existing resources
- Implementing a tax credit to reduce caregivers' out-of-pocket expenses
- Standardizing respite care options across all Medicaid waiver programs
- Streamlining regulatory requirements for facility-based, short-term, overnight respite care



**Support legislation to fund and implement Colorado Respite Task Force's recommendations**

