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Roy Romer  
Governor

## STATE OF THE STATE

COLORADO GOVERNOR ROY ROMER

JANUARY 13, 1994

A century ago, Katherine Lee Bates stood at the summit of Pikes Peak, and conceived the words to "America the Beautiful."

Oh beautiful, for spacious skies  
For amber waves of grain  
For purple mountains majesties  
Above the fruited plain  
America, America  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crowned thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

Of course, it was Colorado that inspired those words.

God has shed grace on Colorado and its people. It is our job to be stewards of that blessing, for all the people who are here now and for future generations.

But growing up in the Dust Bowl, four decades after those words were written, I sometimes had trouble imagining God had ever graced this place. In my childhood, I saw the good farmland around our farm literally blow away -- and I saw the livelihood of many of my neighbors blow away with it.

I saw people in my hometown work hard and fall behind.

I saw my parents and the parents of my friends struggle against the odds to give their kids a better life.

I saw my family and my community discover that sometimes the only way to avoid being pulled apart was to pull together.

It was from these experiences in the Dust Bowl that I learned the values that have guided my adult life as an Air Force officer, as a businessman, as a father, and finally, as your Governor -- the values of faith, hard work, fair play, respect for the environment, personal responsibility to my family and my community.

And I learned that sometimes it takes the entire community to solve a problem.

It seemed to me then, and it seems to me now, that at the most fundamental level, government ought to be about making sure people have the opportunity to share in the good life.

What is the good life?

The good life means having a job that allows you to provide for yourself and your family.

The good life means hunting and fishing and enjoying the outdoors of a beautiful state.

The good life means good schools, so your children can share in the American dream.

The good life means knowing that if you or a family member becomes ill, it won't destroy you financially.

The good life means watching your children ride their bikes down the street without being gripped by the fear they'll be shot.

The good life means knowing that your neighborhood is made up of nurturing friends who will come together to support a neighbor in trouble.

The good life means knowing your government is performing its functions efficiently without becoming wasteful and bloated.

It means reading to your children and rejoicing in the excitement of discovery in their eyes.

It means that your children will have the opportunity to live a better life than you.

It is also important to realize what the good life does not mean. It does not mean just the acquisition of material goods.

It does not mean ignoring the fact that we each have responsibilities as a citizen and a neighbor.

The good life does not mean ignoring the need to contribute to society. It's not the isolation spawned by fear and helplessness.

Moreover, government can't guarantee the good life. But it can and should provide what is the very core of our American experience -- the opportunity for anyone who works hard and plays by the rules to succeed.

I first ran for Governor because I wanted to be part of an enterprise that did this work -- that helped to make people's lives better and that made Colorado a better place to be.

Let me share with you a report on our progress.



First, THE ECONOMY

No one can enjoy the good life without a job.

And when I took office, that element was missing for too many Coloradans.

Unemployment was nearly 9 percent. In some parts of Colorado, it was well into double digits. Job growth was nonexistent. Property values plunged. Foreclosures and bankruptcies skyrocketed. Lending and investment were stagnant.

By any measure -- apartment vacancies, housing starts, even by the large number of trailer rentals to leave the state -- Colorado's economy was dead in the water.

Even more harmful, however, was the fear voiced by some that nothing could be done to reverse the trend. These prophets of doom cited the collapse of the energy industry and the loss of many of our local financial institutions to say we were in a death spiral from which we could never recover.

But, there were many more who believed that working together we could turn things around.

Since then, we have created more than 200,000 net new jobs. Unemployment last month was 4.9 percent, the lowest in years and well below the national average. Personal income growth is above the national average for the third year and is the highest by far in the region. Retail sales have grown for six straight years -- last year by nearly 8 percent. By every measure, our economic foundation is solid.

How did this happen? We worked at it. We declared nationwide -- even worldwide -- that Colorado was open for business. We were aggressive in seeking new jobs. We did it together.

And together, we've had successes all over Colorado.

We expanded regional airports in Akron, Craig, Montrose and Gunnison, and we built the new Denver International Airport.

When CF&I Steel was about to close in Pueblo, we brought in Oregon Steel and saved 1,400 jobs.

We brought an innovative aerospace firm to Montrose.

We helped keep A.E. Staley, a potato processor, in the San Luis Valley.

We helped Sykes Enterprises expand from three to 300 jobs in Sterling.

We brought Reynolds Polymer to Grand Junction; Anheuser Busch to Fort Collins; MCI and Apple Computer to Colorado Springs; Merrill Lynch and American Express to Lakewood.

Through these and hundreds of other community-based projects, there has been an economic resurgence in Colorado.

But it is not enough to feel good about the past. The good life in the form of a job is still missing for many, and others still are fearful their job may suddenly end with a pink slip and a handshake.

That's why we need to take tangible steps to ensure our continued growth.

First, we need to upgrade the tools we have to retain existing businesses and attract new companies to the state. I propose we make a one-time allocation of \$10 million to a Colorado Investment Fund, to be managed by the Economic Development Commission. These funds would come from reserves, not from the general fund.

This money will be used as a revolving loan fund to assist businesses in expansion or relocation. It will be used in creative ways, in combination with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and private financing, to package deals. We ought to use CHFA's bonding capacity more extensively to expand this new fund to finance economic development.

Second, we should give special attention to those areas of the economy in which Colorado clearly excels.

One is telecommunications. Building on our educated work force and our leadership in the cable and phone industries, we will develop a "telecommunications action plan" designed to make Colorado the hub of America's telecommunications industry.

Another area of strength is the North American Free Trade Agreement. Our central location and the opening of the continent's newest major airport give us a jump on the competition. Our International Trade Office already is marketing and identifying new opportunities for Colorado companies in Mexico. These opportunities will focus on agriculture, environmental technology, electronics, telecommunications equipment, and more.

And yet another area of strength for Colorado is our role as a center for environmental restoration industries. Colorado has world-class energy development and environmental science resources. We must do an even better job of marshaling these resources to protect the environment and strengthen our job base.

Third, Colorado is recognized as one of the best climates in the nation for small business. We're going to build on that strength by working to improve access to capital and to reduce regulations and paperwork.

I know small business. I started and operated small businesses in Holly, Lamar, Keenesburg, Gunnison, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Conifer, Evergreen, on Guenella Pass and at Centennial Airport. All but one of these business activities are still in operation.

Small business will provide most of our new jobs in the future. We will concentrate in this area.

Fourth, we must ensure that all of our citizens have the skills to fill the high quality jobs we are working to create. To do that, we must strengthen our worker retraining and adult education efforts.

One of our most successful retraining programs is Colorado First, which works with community colleges to train Coloradans for jobs in newly locating businesses and expanding companies.

We should build on the successes of this program by strengthening its work with existing Colorado companies which are planning to grow or to retool. I propose we increase funding for this part of Colorado First by \$500,000. This is a modest, frugal sum. But, in these times, we must be modest and frugal to keep government spending within limits.

Through all four points -- the new investment fund, concentrating on high priority areas, improving the climate for small businesses, and improving adult education and training -- the message should be clear. A strong economy and jobs remain top priorities for this administration.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

But the good life is more than a job. The good life must include a reverence for what makes Colorado so special -- the environment. In Katherine Lee Bates' words, "...the purple mountains majesty and fruited plains."

I want Coloradans 50 years from now to look back at us as the generation that laid the foundation for their economic prosperity. But I also want them to look back at us as the generation that had the vision to preserve open spaces. To grow in a way that did not pollute the air or water. To prosper without cluttering the landscape with quarries, landfills and hazardous waste sites.

We have done some good work together to protect our environment. But we have much more work to do if we are to ensure that in reaching for the good life we don't lose our grasp on the environmental treasures we already enjoy.

First, I believe the passage in 1992 of the Great Outdoors Colorado amendment, which dedicates state lottery earnings for outdoor recreation, open space, and wildlife, gives us a unique opportunity. It can ensure that growth does not destroy what makes Colorado special. We should never undercut this powerful tool to preserve our outdoor heritage.

In fact, I believe GOCO could be a tool to encourage effective long-term planning at the regional level in Colorado. I want to emphasize that I am not talking about the old style of top-down planning. I'm talking about a tool that empowers all our citizens to work from the bottom up to create a common vision for the future of our state.

Second, I have asked our air quality planners to develop a long range plan addressing carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and the brown cloud. I am concerned about the federal approach of focusing on only one pollutant at a time. If our plan turns out to be in conflict with the federal dictates, we should fight to do what makes sense here in Colorado.

Third, we must increase our efforts to prevent pollution. Prevention is the most environmentally sound, least costly and least bureaucratic approach. This means a new relationship between business and government based on cooperation at the front end rather than conflict and litigation at the back end.

And fourth, as Colorado grows, so does the pressure on dwindling landfill space. Recycling and source reduction can be a large part of this. I have set a goal of cutting the amount of waste Coloradans send to landfills by up to 50 percent. I have outlined an aggressive strategy to get that done, including market development, grants to community-based programs, and technical assistance.

### EDUCATION

No single element of the good life is more important than the education of our children.

Historically, parents have gone without to guarantee their children a better life. I talked a moment ago about my childhood in Holly. In that community, the most important people were the children.

I can remember my parents and my grandparents telling me that education was the key to success. That is why I have worked so hard in education and believe it is the cornerstone to the betterment of every life.

Together, we have taken some important steps to improve education in Colorado. In 1988, we created the Colorado Preschool Program, which provides at-risk four- and five-year-olds with the early education they need to succeed. We know that early childhood



education is one of the most important investments we can make in our future.

That is why I support expanding the Colorado Preschool Program from 2,750 children per year to 4,500 children. I proposed this last year, and I am pleased your School Interim Finance Committee has made this recommendation this year.

Without spending more money, we took two important steps last year to reform the K-12 system by insisting on the development of standards and by empowering communities to create charter schools.

Standards are particularly important because they give parents and students a yardstick to measure their academic progress, and they give all of us the ability to hold schools accountable for making sure students are learning.

There has been a lot of debate and confusion over what these standards will be. The standards program we set up last year is different from the "outcome-based" education model some districts have implemented.

Our state standards will be specific, measurable statements about what we expect our students to learn in basic academic areas like reading, writing, math and history. These standards will be set high -- challenging all students to work harder. Standards respond

to the demands of parents, students, educators and employers for meaningful academic content.

Charter schools are another promising reform we enacted last year. They empower communities to cut away bureaucracy and administration in favor of creativity and innovative learning. And, by creating competition within the public school system, they spur all schools to respond better to community needs and interests.

Charter schools also can provide alternatives for students who are at-risk of dropping out. I propose we set aside \$325,000 as start-up grants to those charter schools, which enroll at least 250 students and focus on the drop-out problem. Imagine the power of this change -- 13 new schools working with over 3,000 at-risk students to help keep them in school and off the street.

I am also concerned that we do not do enough to provide students -- especially those not going on to college, with marketable skills -- to make sure that they can get a good job once they graduate.

Only 24 of every 100 students who enter grade school will go on to a college or university. Yet our high school education system is mostly geared toward college preparation. And almost every economic projection shows a need for more skilled workers trained in technological trades.

We must work to make high school the bridge, for every student, to a successful future. We must create a system that links the skills and knowledge of the classroom to the skills and knowledge of the workplace.

To move us in that direction, Colorado will be using a new grant from the federal government to create a school-to-work strategy. This effort will include leaders from business and labor, as well as parents, students, teachers, employers and communities from every corner of Colorado.

This year, I also am beginning a statewide initiative on literacy to identify what we need to do, and then get it done. My wife, Bea, will be actively involved in this program.

Finally, efforts are being made to make our school funding act fair, equitable and affordable. It makes sense to eliminate our current funding categories and recognize the different costs for different students, particularly for those at risk. We also must ensure we fund the act within our existing revenues and not at a level we may not be able to sustain. But, if our revenue estimates increase before we finally make these decisions, I would like to increase this funding.

## HEALTH CARE

Many Coloradans are unable to enjoy the good life because of the debilitating cost of medical care or the specter that their life savings, their home, and their job can be lost by a serious illness to themselves or their loved ones.

Last year we acknowledged the importance of reforming our health care system. Our present system simply doesn't work. It costs too much, and often does not provide coverage to people when they need it most.

ColoradoCare was a good study. It helped shape national health plans. But I do not support it in its entirety, specifically its suggestion for raising taxes.

Also when we began studying ColoradoCare, we did not know that we would have a new President who would make this a top priority. We need to be careful now that we do not waste time and money setting up a system which will have to be dismantled because it conflicts with a national approach.

I hope the Congress passes a national health care reform bill.

While that debate continues, we do not have to sit idle. We can take important steps to solve this problem, which will not conflict with any eventual national plan. In fact, if a plan does pass, these changes will make Colorado better able to move.

Therefore, in this session, I will work with you to enact reforms in the insurance industry so that people do not need to worry about losing their health insurance for reasons beyond their control. I will work with you to pass a bill that encourages small businesses and individuals to combine their purchasing power so they can exercise the same market power as big companies. And I will work with you on legislation to move more of our Medicaid recipients into managed care.

### CRIME AND VIOLENCE

So far, we've talked about giving our citizens the chance to live the good life in terms of good jobs, a good environment, good education and quality health care.

But as tough as it is to build the good life, it is all too easy to lose it. It is tragic that many are robbed of the good life for no reason other than wearing a Denver Broncos jacket, riding in a car, trick or treating with a younger brother, or eating or working in a restaurant.

The random evil of violence destroys more than a life. It destroys the security of a society. It destroys the confidence that hard work makes a difference. It destroys families and neighborhoods and communities. It destroys the very glue that holds the American mosaic together.

I spoke earlier about the prophets of doom who said we could never turn this economy around, and I showed how we pulled together and proved them wrong.

The same thing can and is happening today with crime and violence. There are those who despair that we have lost control, that violence has a grip on our lives and that there is no longer anything we can do about it. That sort of fear is at times understandable, but it is terribly destructive and wholly unacceptable.

The simple fact is, we are pulling together as communities and we are starting to turn this problem around. Not overnight, but slowly and deliberately. Block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, kid by kid.

The solution is two-fold. We have to respond, as we have said before, with an iron fist for those who practice violence. But we also have to respond with a helping hand to those who are struggling against violence and who want to reclaim their communities.

Although overall crime is down in Colorado, we have witnessed a disturbing increase in violence among youths between the ages of 15 and 19, including a 300 percent increase in homicides since 1988.

### ENFORCEMENT

We came together last September in a special session to take immediate steps to stem the violence. In five days, we enacted 10 new laws to deal with violent youth, highlighted by a law prohibiting juveniles from possessing handguns and the creation of a new Youthful Offender System for young people who commit violent crimes.

But we have more to do.

First, we must build a permanent facility for the Youthful Offender System. Right now, the state has 96 beds dedicated to this new system. At the current pace of arrests, all those beds will be filled in less than a year.

Therefore, I continue to support construction of a new 250 to 300-bed youth offender facility in Pueblo to provide adequate space for the next several years.

Second, we have to face the fact that Colorado's 1950s-style juvenile code is inadequate to the realities of the 1990s. It never anticipated violent gang members with little regard for life. It can only coddle such people, though much harder punishment is in order. In short, to violent kids, the present system is a joke.

For this reason, I support a complete overhaul of Colorado's Children's Code, starting with a complete review of all its provisions. I support the proposal by the interim committee on youth violence for a task force to rewrite the code, though I would hope we could do it in time to run bills in the next session.

In my view, the rewrite should be based on the following principles:

- early intervention with troubled youth should be encouraged;
- first-time non-violent offenders should receive specialized treatment that is community-based and involves the family;
- violent teens and multiple offenders must pay real consequences for their behavior;
- Punishment must be swift and sure;



-- judges should have a range of sentencing alternatives;  
and

-- the role and nature of the juvenile courts should be  
fully evaluated.

I know that a bill has been proposed providing for a mandatory life sentence upon conviction for a third felony. I have consulted with law-enforcement officials about this concept. They have concluded the habitual offender laws on the books right now are working well. This is our version of "Three times and you're out."

I agree we must be tough on repeat violent offenders, and I will support efforts to strengthen our habitual offender laws that are supported by our law-enforcement community.

Also, as you well know, I support the death penalty for certain crimes. And, I believe that law should be expanded to include the crime of multiple shootings, as occurred at Chuck E. Cheese.

Colorado, frankly, is a leader in confronting these issues. In the last eight years, we have tripled our prison space. We were advocating hard time and hard sentences for violent crimes when other states weren't yet admitting there was a problem. We also strengthened our death penalty law.

The laws we passed in the special session gave the district attorneys a powerful tool to punish violent youth. Violent youths now can be tried in adult courts and can receive adult sentences, and we hammered out tough laws over the opposition of the gun lobby while other states stood by and watched.

Now other states are following our lead. They realize that guns and children are a deadly combination. They realize that people -- even teenagers -- need to be treated firmly when they endanger others.

I want you to know that I will support any reasonable proposal to make our laws more effective in dealing with this problem. But the best thing to do now is to pay for a permanent facility for the Youthful Offender System so that our new laws have real teeth.

Tough laws and tough enforcement, tough sentences and tough punishment are important. And yet you and I both know that youth violence is a symptom of something very wrong and very deep in society. We won't solve this problem until we attack it at its roots.

#### PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Last fall, we responded with the "iron fist." Now, we have to follow up with a helping hand. I believe Colorado must take the next step -- not instead of, but in addition to, tough law enforcement.

That is because the most effective and least costly anti-crime efforts are not necessarily those that punish crimes or even prevent crimes. They are those that prevent criminals.

The things that prevent criminals are loving parents, nurturing families, supportive neighbors and strong communities. The best anti-crime tools we have are good public schools and programs that help families stay together. They are laws that demand parental responsibility. They are programs that give kids real alternatives.

I firmly believe that sound programs already exist in Colorado to provide effective support for struggling families.

I have been told repeatedly by people who provide and receive services that many sound programs exist to reduce the factors which contribute to juvenile violence. However, we must do a much better job of identifying and evaluating programs that already exist.

To accomplish this task, I propose that we establish a Prevention Coordinating Center in the new Department of Human Services, to take over the inventory work already being done by the Community Partnership Office. The center would also be responsible for evaluating existing programs and then communicating this information to the public, and then linking the effective programs to those who need help. An example of a program that has the right criteria to assess risk is "Build A Generation."

But the best prevention programs will always begin with parents. Parents are the first and best communicators of the values that will guide a child's conduct and form his system of beliefs.

We know from experience that home visitation programs to support parents are an effective way of providing health, social support and educational services directly to pregnant women and parents of newborn infants -- especially teen parents. Among others, The Baby Bear Hugs program in Yuma, and the Family Visitor program in Glenwood Springs, are proving enormously successful in preventing unwanted second pregnancies of teen mothers, preventing child abuse, improving family relations and connecting families with other resources in the community.

A good example of an effective parent education program is HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters) in Alamosa and Grand Junction, where parents learn how to teach their young children the skills they need for school. And we know that intervention to keep families together, coupled with in-home family support programs, are far preferable to splitting up families in crisis.

These programs don't seek to take over for the parent or to substitute someone else's values. They give parents the help they need to be effective. They are precisely the sort of programs we should be supporting -- community-based, non-bureaucratic, direct support programs for families.

I have set aside \$1 million to support and expand such programs. I also know we can do much more by redirecting existing resources. Therefore, I am directing my Cabinet to conduct a thorough review of the money and resources we spend on centralized support programs with an eye toward moving as many of these programs and as many of these resources as possible to the community level.

Even if programs exist for parents, they are often inaccessible. When parents want guidance in raising children, they should not be forced to wander through a maze of government buildings, to find help.

In 1991, we established eight Family Centers on a pilot basis around the state. This is another program that is working.

The idea behind a family center is that all family support services should be under one roof and accessible at the neighborhood level.

These eight pilot centers have shown great promise. They have been able to respond much more quickly to the needs of families. The centers also have been able to design programs that are appropriate to the communities they serve. This is the way government should work.

Last year, the Legislature established a State Council for Family Support Centers. This year, I propose that we take immediate steps to increase our support for the existing centers. I also propose that

we double the number of family centers from eight to 16, and that we target those communities and neighborhoods with the greatest need.

To do that, I am committing \$1.3 million in new state funding.

Further, I will ask my Cabinet to assist Mayor Webb in his effort to establish and increase the number of Family Resource Schools within the Denver Public Schools. This may include requesting waivers from the state and federal government and revisiting the way funds are currently being spent.

We have talked about responsible parents who want help. But we must acknowledge that there are some parents who do not take responsibility for their children.

One of the most common factors among troubled families is that one parent is absent and often refuses to pay child support. The fact of the matter is that 85-90% of those absent parents are fathers, and while many divorced fathers are responsible, loving and supportive, the damage done by those who are not is immense.

Of the nearly 200,000 Colorado families entitled to pay child support, only half receive either full or partial payment. Through aggressive enforcement actions over the past few years have increased payments significantly, over \$600 million still is outstanding in child support for prior years, and an additional \$100 million is owed for last year alone.

If we are to take seriously our pledge to do a better job of supporting families in crisis, we must crack down on these deadbeat dads. I propose that the Child Support Enforcement Division be given the statutory authority to simplify the seizure of bank accounts and other assets; to require employers to report new hires to the division immediately; and to have employers increase the amount withheld from a paycheck if the non-compliant parent is at least \$500 behind in payments. I also want the division to have the resources to garnish workers' compensation benefits, and to automatically report those who fail to pay to credit bureaus.

Next, we need to take a hard look at the opportunities that exist for those kids who are working hard to avoid gangs or crime and violence.

In my many discussions these past few months with kids and adults from those communities affected most directly by youth violence, almost everyone pointed to a critical need for more before and after school activities.

For the youngest children -- those between five and 11 years old -- quality before- and after-school child care should be available at the school when parents work.

I will ask the departments of Social Services and Education to use \$500,000 of federal grant money to fund such programs.

Another need is activities for kids ages 12 to 18. Too often, the schools close at 3 in the afternoon, and kids are left on the streets with nothing to do. One of the unfortunate consequences of our ongoing crisis in school funding has been a cut back in athletics and after school activities that once gave students a place to belong.

When I was a kid, the school was the center of our community. It wasn't just where we went to class. It was where the community came together -- to learn, to play, to celebrate.

We need to recapture that ideal all over our state. School buildings are huge public investments, and they shouldn't sit dark and empty after 3 in the afternoon.

Imagine a school in your community. Instead of it sitting idle for most of the day, it's teeming with activity from early in the morning until late at night. There's a basketball league sponsored by the local YMCA. There's a chess club. There's a community theater group. There's a study hall where senior citizen volunteers help with homework. There's a mentoring program. There's adult literacy classes, and much more.

Imagine that the whole operation is run and largely staffed by volunteers from the community -- not necessarily faculty from the school, but parents and business people and seniors and members of local churches and civic organizations. And the police have it on their beat, and maybe drop by each night to visit with the kids.



This isn't imagination. It's already being done at some schools in Colorado. Risley Middle School in Pueblo, for instance. The principal of Risley, Dr. LeeRoy Martinez, has transformed a school that serves mostly low-income families into a model for before and after school programs and community involvement.

Working with local businesses, churches, community groups, and local governments, Risley is now open from 8 in the morning to 9 in the evening. It offers adult education classes for parents, anti-gang counseling for kids, a branch of the public library for the entire community.

It doesn't take a lot to make that happen -- not a massive new appropriation or change in the law. It just takes a little commitment and hard work and creativity. It takes real local heroes like Dr. Martinez.

I think one of the good things we can do this session is to encourage more schools to open their doors. I want to set a goal of 200 such schools in the next two years.

Therefore, I propose a new "Open Schools Program" to turn schools into true community centers. I don't mean a program run by government or the school district or even the principal and teachers in a given school. I mean individualized programs designed and run by people in the community being served.

I propose we reserve \$2 million for competitive grants as an incentive to get this started. The requirements for receipt of the small grant should be minimal. The community should agree to keep a public school building open longer hours and to provide activities and services for the youth in the community. Activities and services could include such things as recreation, mentoring, tutoring, job training, conflict resolution and more.

Finally, we need to expand our efforts to provide employment opportunities for kids who want to work.

Since 1981, the Governor's Summer Job Hunt has placed over 145,000 young people in public and private summer jobs. I propose we expand this program to provide year round services on the condition that participating kids also stay in school.

I have directed the Department of Labor and Employment to look at providing transportation assistance to young people in the program, since that is one of the key barriers to participation for some qualified youth.

I also have directed the Governor's Job Training Office and the Department of Natural Resources to develop plans to expand their internal summer jobs programs.

And I have committed \$2 million in Office of Energy Conservation funds to employ youth in community-based energy efficiency and

recycling programs, including helping to weatherize low-income homes. Youth who successfully complete the program also will receive a bonus payment to be used for college or vocational training.

I have discussed today what most Coloradans believe is the essence of the good life. I have discussed our strong economy, our need to strengthen the environment and address the problem of health care. I have discussed the need to support innovative education. I have described the two-pronged approach to crime and violence -- a firm enforcement policy and an expansive program to assist families and prevent crime.

Most of these programs emphasize the involvement of individuals and communities rather than more top-down government programs. That is because more bureaucracy won't bring the good life. Most elements of the good life can only come from people themselves.

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

But a missing element for too many people in our modern society is a sense of community.

The progressive urbanization, demand of the workplace, electronic entertainment, and fear for personal safety has oftentimes made us prisoners -- cut off from the fellowship of our neighbors.

This lack of togetherness has fed on itself to further isolate us in our daily activities.

Government cannot create a community. People do. But government can nurture communities. In the end, government programs are not enough. Even if we are successful in making our programs more effective and bringing them closer to the people, the truth is that this problem can only be solved by people acting in their families, their neighborhoods and their communities.

We must fight the problem community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family.

We must acknowledge that we all are part of a larger community, that we are not alone. We must work together with our neighbors to make our streets safe.

We must reach out to all segments of our society -- schools, churches, businesses -- and ask how we can help them in their efforts in the community. Much work already is being done.

Last year, I created the Community Partnership office to help communities organize block by block against violence. That office now is working with over 4,700 block organizations around Colorado, and it hopes to expand to 10,000 to 15,000 blocks by next summer.

These efforts -- government and communities working together -- are the kind of efforts we must undertake to take back our streets and give the future back to our kids.

#### (INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS)

If you're listening at home and wondering what you can do to help in your neighborhood, the staff Community Partnership Office can help you get started. They won't tell you what to do, but they'll give you ideas and support, and they'll put you in touch with others who are concerned. Call them. Their number is 1-800-376-2728. Inside the metro area, you can call 894-2750.

Those are important numbers. Write them down. Use them.

#### MORAL FRAMEWORK

Finally, the good life only has meaning within a framework of what is right and wrong. A life devoid of morality is devoid of purpose.

This moral framework is essential, not only to an individual life, but also to the life of a society. It is how we interact with each other. It is the values we convey to our children. It is what calls us

together to help a neighbor in need. It is the most basic element in a free society.

I know the word "moral" is loaded with different and often controversial meanings. But when I use the word "moral," I do not mean it in the self-righteous sense.

I use it to describe a set of core values and beliefs -- beliefs we all agree upon -- that any society passes from generation to generation.

I'm talking about values such as working hard and contributing to your community. Values such as caring for others and protecting other members of our community. Values such as a common understanding that we do not inflict violence on one another. Such as "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This is not just a problem in certain communities and certain neighborhoods. It is a problem in all communities and all neighborhoods. Even those parents who are working hard to raise good kids face an uphill battle against the values being beamed at our kids through the television, the movies, and music.

People need to know and take responsibility for what their kids are seeing and hearing, and entertainers and broadcasters need to understand that they have become almost the elders of our society in terms of passing on values. They need to understand that and take responsibility for the messages they send.

Perhaps it's unusual for a governor to talk about morality. But I firmly believe that if we ignore this part of the problem, then we ignore the very core of the problem. When a child kills a child over a Denver Broncos jacket, we know we are dealing with something much deeper than the lack of a government program.

I believe the steps we've outlined today are important and will make a difference for many Coloradans, and I believe we will see positive results. But these steps alone will not solve the problems of crime, violence, disintegrating families, and teen pregnancies in Colorado.

Whether it is surviving the devastation of the Dust Bowl in Holly, starting up a company, or the revitalizing of Colorado's economy after the energy collapse in the early 1980s, success only comes from people working together to make a difference.

Government in a democracy is but one reflection of the people -- and people are who make the difference. People commit crimes, do violence, break up families, and drop out of schools. But people also heal the sick, nurture infants, educate children, support their families and make a difference in the lives of others every day.

People make up neighborhoods, communities, schools, villages, towns and cities and they must rise up and take them back to ensure that everyone can share in the blessings of the good life. Government cannot give what people themselves must possess. Government can

make laws, but those laws are no substitute for a conscience or individual moral framework.

Government can feed a child, but it cannot substitute for a mother's love.

Government can order and collect child support, but it cannot substitute for an absent father.

Government can teach a child, but it cannot substitute for the support and moral direction of a neighborhood, a church, a temple, or a family.

What kind of Colorado do we hope for?

I look forward to a Colorado where hope has replaced despair, where love has tempered hate, where sharing has dampened greed, and where justice is both fair and firm.

I look forward to a Colorado where excitement and wonder will show in the eyes of children -- rather than fear.

I look forward to a Colorado that uses a prior generation's highest achievements as its starting point -- as the threshold from which it will reach for higher expectations.



I look forward to a Colorado that has become a community; a community that has clearly defined its values and has the courage to act them out; a community that will reach out to each of its members and say, "You have value. Come join us as we pursue the good life and reach for our destiny."

We can do this. We can become what we hope for if we decide it is that important. We can make that Colorado happen.

Then we can say we have truly responded to Katherine Lee Bates' dream of a land where "God shed his grace on thee; and crowned thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."

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