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Senate Chamber  
State of Colorado  
Denver

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SENATOR ISGAR SPONSORING PROPOSAL TO RESTORE INDIGENT CARE BUDGET FUNDING**

**Senate sponsor says proposal would restore a \$159,526 cut from Durango Mercy Medical Center**

DENVER—Last year funding for indigent care at private hospitals was cut by 25%. **Senator Jim Isgar (D-Hesperus)** is a joint sponsor with Senator Ed Jones on House Bill 1349, which concerns the funding of the Colorado Indigent Care Program. The bipartisan bill was introduced in the House yesterday.

“Unfortunately, the Legislature cut over \$6 million from the Colorado Indigent Care Program. This measure will restore that funding, which had detrimental impacts on hospitals across the state and particularly Mercy Medical Center,” said Senator Isgar.

HB 1349 is sponsored in the House by Representatives Bernie Buescher and Bob McCluskey. The bill is subject to the passage of Senate Bill 210, which transfers money in order to fund the restoration of the indigent care program.

\$3.1 million will be transferred from the interest earned on the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to the General Fund. These funds will be matched by the federal government, thus allowing the state to double its investment. This money will fund safety net provider payments for private hospitals under the Colorado Indigent Care Program.

Senator Isgar added, “If this bill passes then the Durango Mercy Medical Center will have funds restored in the amount of \$159,526. The citizens who need this care are our most vulnerable citizens. We must restore these funds, so they receive basic care.”

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