



End the Wait List Campaign Update Volume II

The following is from an article in the July 29th Denver Post:

Coalition pushing to help disabled turns in signatures. The measure would raise the sales tax to eliminate a 9,700- person wait list for services.

Supporters of an initiative that would raise Colorado's sales tax to benefit those with developmental disabilities said Monday they have enough signatures to put the issue before voters.

Officials with the Coalition to End the Wait List said they submitted 131,400 signatures to Secretary of State Mike Coffman's office, which has 30 days to validate the signatures.

If placed on the November ballot, the measure would ask Colorado voters to phase in a sales tax increase of two-tenths of a cent over two years to supplement programs for the developmentally disabled, which includes those with autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. Current state sales tax is 2.9 percent. If the measure were fully phased in by 2010, the higher 3.1 percent tax would raise an estimated \$186 million a year.

That money would go to end the waiting list for those with developmental disabilities to receive state services, which could include around-the-clock supervision, living accommodations or job training. There are about 9,700 adults and children with developmental disabilities on the state's waiting list for services now, a number that is expected to grow to 12,000 by 2012.

Advocates for the developmentally disabled said the state now serves more than 11,000 at a cost of about \$183 million a year.

If you have questions about the Coalition please contact, Marsha Meyer, Associate Director for Client and Families at Developmental Pathways Inc., 303-858-2390 and for additional information on how you can support the Campaign, please visit <http://www.endcoloradowaitlist.org/>

