



# The Bell Policy Center

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## **Bell Policy Center says proposed immigration initiative misses the mark**

Bell Policy Center President Wade Buchanan says a proposed ballot initiative that would bar undocumented immigrants from receiving government services fails to solve any real problems.

State and local governments would spend more to enforce the measure than they would gain from savings, the hassle factor would rise dramatically for citizens seeking services, and the measure would expose governments to a new class of lawsuits.

“Add up all these reasons, and you can see this dog won’t hunt,” said Rich Jones, Bell’s director of policy and research.

Anticipating a major debate in 2006, the Bell Policy Center reviewed existing reports and pending legislation on immigration in the United States. The nonpartisan think tank released an issue brief on the subject today, entitled “Immigration Effects on Colorado and the nation: A review of research.”

During the coming year, the Bell Policy Center will examine immigration in more depth, focusing on costs and benefits to Colorado, and issue reports on the findings.

A key focus will be the constitutional amendment proposed by a group called Defend Colorado Now. The measure bars state and local government agencies from providing any non-emergency or non-mandated services to undocumented immigrants.

Even under the preliminary review prepared for this first issue brief, Bell analysts say the proposal misses the mark.

“It’s hard to imagine a less effective approach to the problem,” Buchanan said. “This is a national problem. It can’t be solved at the state level, and any effort to do so is bound to backfire on Colorado taxpayers.