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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DENVER ANNOUNCES BILL SIGNING MAY 21  
WITH GOV. BILL RITTER FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM**  
*SB 09-123 to help prevent dropouts & provide all-around healthy choice counseling*

**DENVER, CO (May 16, 2009)** – On Thursday, May 21, the Junior League of Denver (JLD) will celebrate the signing of a milestone bill that will help fund after-school pilot programs that will offer physical and mental assistance, including exercise, academic assistance, nutrition and health counseling, and mental health counseling. The JLD, celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with community partners, have been diligently working to pass this bill.

Officially referred to as SB 09-123, “Healthy Choices Dropout Prevention Pilot Program,” the bill addresses disturbing statistics relating to the health and dropout rate of Colorado’s children and encourages children to make all-around healthy choices.

Join the Junior League of Denver, its community partners, and Governor Bill Ritter, who will sign the bill Thursday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. at the Denver Public Schools Career Education Center at 2650 Elliot Street in Denver.

**WHAT:** Bill Signing Ceremony of SB 09-123

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 21, 9:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Denver Public Schools Career Education Center, 2650 Elliot Street, Denver

**WHO:** Governor Bill Ritter will sign the bill to be witnessed by the JLD and other community partners, including American Academy of Pediatrics (Colorado Chapter), Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Do Well, The Children’s Hospital, The Women’s Wilderness Institute, YMCA

**About SB 09-123, “Healthy Choices Dropout Prevention Pilot Program”**

SB 09-123 creates a pilot out-of-school program to enhance academic achievement and physical and mental health of adolescent students to encourage healthy choices and reduce dropout rates. Allows at-risk middle schools to apply for and receive funds from grants to use for out-of-school programs that incorporate physical exercise, academic assistance, nutrition counseling, mental health counseling and health education.

### **About the Junior League of Denver**

The Junior League of Denver (JLD), celebrating 90 years of service, is a volunteer organization of women working to promote the health and education of women and children in the Metro area. The JLD provides programs, partners with other non-profit organizations, and supports legislation that help women and children reach their full potential by ensuring they have access to education, health care, a safe environment, and career training.

For more information, please Tamara Hoffbuhr, VP, Public Policy Junior League of Denver, (303) 894-4406. For media inquiries, please contact Laurie Brian, JLD PR/Marketing Committee, at [lab52@columbia.edu](mailto:lab52@columbia.edu) or cell, (415) 305-9554.

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