

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Springs' Sen. Dave Schultheis calls on governor to ensure state has no ties to scandal-rocked ACORN

Following news accounts of how staffers at a federally funded “community organizing” group tried to help undercover operatives set up a brothel for child prostitution, Sen. Dave. Schultheis, of Colorado Springs, is demanding an assurance that Colorado tax dollars aren't winding up in the controversial group's coffers.

Employees of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN, were caught on video at several offices nationwide offering advice on taxes, housing and other matters to people who openly acknowledged they were opening a business employing underage prostitutes smuggled into the country from El Salvador.

Schultheis, a veteran Republican lawmaker at the statehouse, wrote the governor today, asking him to verify that none of his Cabinet agencies are extending public funding to any ACORN-affiliated groups. Schultheis noted that Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty already has taken similar steps.

“Governor, I trust that you share my concern that ACORN employees may be helping propagate and cover up yet other criminal activities while receiving taxpayer funding,” Schultheis wrote. “I am calling on your administration to help assure Colorado taxpayers that none of their tax dollars are funding such activities.”

The U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly this week to block the Obama administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development from disbursing any more grants to

ACORN. And U. S. Sen. Mike Johanns is calling for a probe into ACORN by the U.S. Justice Department in the wake of the revelations.

While ACORN's Colorado representative told the media that the state's chapter gets no public funds, Schultheis noted ACORN's national operation has received more than \$50 million in federal funds over the years, and he said there are no guarantees tax dollars aren't winding up in ACORN's Colorado network

“That is why I am asking you to verify for the public which if any of your Cabinet agencies may have made disbursed public funds to any ACORN-related entities,” Schultheis wrote. “In the wake of the appalling revelations about ACORN, Coloradans deserve to know if their own state government has been tarnished by this scandal.”

Full text of Schultheis letter: http://daveschultheis.com/Files/schultheis_acorn_letter.pdf

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