

# Children's Hospital physician named Anderson replacement

by **HEATH URIE**  
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Kathleen "Kiki" Traylor, a physician at Denver's Children's Hospital and daughter-in-law of former state Sen. Claire Traylor, will replace Sen. Norma Anderson as the representative for Jefferson County's Senate District 22.

A Republican vacancy committee decided unanimously on Jan. 7 that Traylor, who identifies herself as "just a Republican" but is widely considered to be a moderate, should finish Anderson's final year in the state Senate.

She will be sworn in at 10 a.m. Jan. 11, at the beginning of the 2006 legislative session.

"I'm thrilled and a bit nervous," Traylor said on Monday. "This is something I made a decision to work for in the last year, to run for the seat, and the way it's all happened has been a little overwhelming. I hope I can fill Norma's shoes."

Bill Schroeder, the Republican who held the Senate seat prior to Anderson, chaired the four-member vacancy committee charged with finding her replacement.

"We had four good candidates," Schroeder said, which

included South Jeffco resident and former candidate for District Attorney Guy Heil, insurance agent Barb Neville, consultant Mike Kopp and Traylor.

Traylor, who works with the Foster Care Clinic at Children's Hospital, said she didn't expect to be selected as Anderson's replacement.



Traylor

"There were several other very qualified and strong candidates," she said. "I don't have a lot of political

experience. My strength lies in health care and education. This will be a learning experience for me."

Anderson's term was set to expire at the end of the 2006 session, but Traylor said she will run for re-election in November. But, for now, she said she just wants to learn the ropes of being a legislator.

"I want to learn as much as I can," she said. "I think my biggest goal is to try and follow

in Norma's footsteps."

Still, before Traylor even takes her seat in the statehouse, at least one of her political rivals is attacking the appointment process.

Attorney Justin Everett had submitted paperwork to be considered by the committee to replace Anderson, but did not show up for the weekend interviews. Instead, he posted a written statement on his campaign website criticizing

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the selection process.

"The power brokers have hoodwinked average citizens like you and me once again," said Everett, who has been mounting a campaign to run for the seat at the end of 2006.

"Our outgoing state senator was a key architect and top campaigner for Referendum C. During this important upcoming legislative session, she has left citizens of our district and the state of Colorado in a lurch

by resigning and leaving us with an untested successor."

Schroeder said he is confident the committee made the right decision, and said the whole idea is to appoint a replacement who can hold the party's seat in November.

"In my personal case, I'm very concerned that the person we choose is a strong candidate in November," Schroeder said.

Last week, Anderson said it's important to keep her seat in Republican hands, but that she did not resign to advance any particular candidate.

Everett maintains the process is flawed.

"This is a true disservice to the citizens of our district and the state of Colorado," Everett continued. "This resignation truly hurts Republican's ability to ensure that Referendum C's tax increase is spent according to the voter's intent. The power brokers handpicking a successor for our District is the type of inter-party politics we're all fed up with; we're tired of these power brokers choosing candidates for average citizens. By allowing this failure of participation in the party process, it will hurt our chances in the 2006 election."