



## HOUSE RESOLUTION 18-1006

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Covarrubias and Coleman, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.**

**CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADES IN TODAY'S WORKFORCE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING MARCH 21, 2018, AS "COLORADO TRADES AND CTE DAY".**

WHEREAS, Skilled trades have not received the recognition they deserve; and

WHEREAS, A competitive global economy requires workers who are trained in skilled trades; and

WHEREAS, According to the most recent National Association of Manufacturers survey, 80% of respondents indicated a moderate to severe shortage of qualified skilled production employees, including front-line workers such as machinists, operators, craft workers, distributors, and technicians; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education (CTE) ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as

science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many other career fields that are vital in keeping Colorado competitive in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the three fastest-growing occupations require an associate's degree or a degree with fewer requirements, and each has an annual median salary greater than \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, The average annual wage for a Coloradan employed in construction is \$57,581; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 155,000 Colorado men and women employed in a skilled trade; and

WHEREAS, Skills learned through an on-the-job and classroom apprenticeship program provide graduates with meaningful opportunities to advance to management, executive, and business ownership positions; and

WHEREAS, Many skilled trade apprenticeship programs offer free training to enrollees and place students directly in hands-on work environments; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 60,000 more workers will be needed by 2023, and 70% of those will be working for subcontractors; and

WHEREAS, Men and women in skilled trades contribute to creating the infrastructure necessary to maintain the booming economy in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Men and women in skilled trades, such as linemen, pipefitters, excavators, steel workers, and welders, are often part of first response teams who help rebuild communities after natural disasters, taking on great personal risk to ensure public safety in these communities; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

That we, the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Recognize the importance of skilled trades to both our economy and infrastructure;

(2) Recognize skilled trade workers as essential and valuable assets for the success of Colorado;

(3) Encourage students to explore career and technical education paths that are not traditionally taken, but lead to competitive salaries and meaningful careers; and

(4) Designate Wednesday, March 21, 2018, as "Colorado Trades and CTE Day".

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Pickens Technical College, Delta-Montrose Technical College, Emily Griffith Technical College, Warren Tech, Colorado Contractors Association, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Colorado, Build Colorado, American Subcontractors Association of Colorado, Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, SMART Union, Laborers International Union, Affiliates of Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council, and Hispanic Contractors of Colorado.

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES