



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-015

BY SENATOR(S) Kefalas and Gardner, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lee and Willett, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pettersen, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Conflict resolution encompasses many forms of responses to differences, such as mediation, arbitration, facilitation, collaborative decision-making, ombudsmen activities, and restorative justice practices; and

WHEREAS, These conflict resolution processes empower individuals, families, communities, organizations, and businesses to foster communication and devise solutions that are acceptable and responsive to the needs and interests of all parties involved; and

WHEREAS, Conflict resolution is taught and practiced by citizens in many school systems, universities, and graduate programs throughout Colorado and the world as a way of resolving disputes; and

WHEREAS, Community-based conflict resolution programs work to

strengthen local relationships by fairly and equitably resolving neighborhood and community conflicts and opening community dialogues based in reason and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Professional associations of conflict mediators promote peaceful and creative resolutions to disputes; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly, in passing House Joint Resolution 97-1020, demonstrated its support of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) because of the cost- and time-savings that ADR brings to the handling of disputes by the state court system; and

WHEREAS, Additional benefits produced in appropriate cases through facilitative, party-centered mediation, arbitration, and restorative justice practices include more creative and more durable interest-based resolution; increased satisfaction for the parties who are active participants and ultimate decision-makers in the negotiation; and the preservation of personal relationships, thereby decreasing the likelihood of strained relations among the parties and further disputes; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado legislature's exemplary implementation of collaboration and working across party lines to enact sound policy has had a very real impact on the behaviors of all Coloradans, economic progress, and job creation throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed the month of October to be Conflict Resolution Month in the state of Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, join the Governor in recognizing October 2017 as Conflict Resolution Month in Colorado;

(2) That we invite Coloradans to create events that celebrate and promote the use of productive conflict resolution in their communities;

(3) That we call upon leaders across the state to use Conflict

Resolution Month in Colorado as an occasion to discuss the principles and use the practices of conflict resolution in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, congregations, and workplaces; and

(4) That we encourage every citizen of the state to reflect upon the conflicts present in his or her own life and to work responsibly to peacefully resolve those conflicts.

Be It Further Resolved, That, in conjunction with Conflict Resolution Month in Colorado, October 2017, the General Assembly encourages development of educational and training programs that emphasize the special benefits of facilitative, interest-based, party-centered, and restorative practices and that bring these special benefits to the attention of judges and other officials and staff in the state court system, state executive branch, and local governments throughout the state.

Be It Further Resolved, That the General Assembly encourages the participation of judges and other officials and staff in the state judicial branch, state executive branch, and local governments in projects and programs celebrating and observing Conflict Resolution Month in Colorado, October 2017; and, like House Joint Resolution 97-1020, that copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, the state court administrator, the chief judge of each judicial district in the state, and the court administrator of each judicial district in the state.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution also be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper; Patricia M. Jarzowski, President, Colorado Bar Association; Matt Riede, Chair, Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council; Lee Ann Colacioppo, Editor, *The Denver Post*; Vince Bzdek, Editor, *The Colorado Springs Gazette*; Jay Seaton, Publisher, *The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*; Sara Johnson, President, Mediation Association of Colorado; Sharon Sturges, Program Director, Office of Dispute Resolution in the Colorado Judicial Department; Brian Price, Board President, The Conflict Center; Dilpreet Jammu, Board Chair, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; Adam Foster and James Carr,

Co-chairs, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Colorado Bar Association; and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
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Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
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