

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1202.01 Melanie Pawlyszyn x2802

SJR16-031

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-031

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2016 AS "BLADDER**
102 **HEALTH MONTH" IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, Tens of millions of Americans are affected by
2 bladder diseases and conditions, including urinary incontinence,
3 overactive bladder, underactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, nocturia,
4 urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, urotrauma, and neurogenic
5 bladder; and

6 WHEREAS, Urinary tract infections cause over 8 million health
7 care provider visits each year; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 4 to 12 million American men, women,
9 and children of any age or race may have interstitial cystitis; and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 WHEREAS, An estimated 76,960 Americans are diagnosed with
2 bladder cancer each year; and

3 Whereas, The University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC), as
4 the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer
5 center in the State of Colorado, is at the forefront of basic, clinical, and
6 translational cancer research in bladder and other cancers for both human
7 and companion animal use; and

8 Whereas, The UCCC's contributions include the precision
9 medicine genomic approach called COXEN for optimal therapy
10 assignment and the discovery and development of novel drugs; and

11 WHEREAS, Bladder diseases and conditions have significant
12 impact on a person's health and quality of life, contributing to depression,
13 social isolation, accidents, sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem,
14 hospitalizations, nursing home admissions, and even death; and

15 WHEREAS, Nursing home admissions due to urinary incontinence
16 are estimated to cost \$6 billion annually; and

17 WHEREAS, At least 80% of Americans living with multiple
18 sclerosis (MS) report bladder symptoms at the time of diagnosis, yet
19 studies have shown that only 43% of people with MS experiencing
20 moderate to severe bladder symptoms had ever been evaluated by a
21 urologist; and

22 WHEREAS, Medical and behavioral research to better understand
23 and maintain bladder health and treat bladder diseases is critically needed;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Despite negative health consequences, less than half
26 of patients seek treatment for their bladder control problems, and a
27 majority of those who do seek treatment only do so a year or more after
28 the onset of symptoms; and

29 WHEREAS, Bladder problems are highly stigmatized, and open
30 dialogue generated by awareness-raising efforts such as Bladder Health
31 Month can reduce this stigma and empower providers and patients to
32 have much needed conversations about bladder health; now, therefore,

33 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*

1 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

2 That November 2016 is designated as Bladder Health Month in
3 Colorado.

4 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
5 to the National Association for Continence and Dan Theodorescu,
6 director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center.