

First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1011.01 Darren Thornberry

HJR17-1016

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Becker J. and Mitsch Bush, Becker K., Buck, Catlin, Esgar, Ginal, Hamner, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lewis, Lontine, McKean, Michaelson Jenet, Navarro, Rankin, Rosenthal, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Weissman, Wilson, Winter, Young

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg, Martinez Humenik, Aguilar, Coram, Fields, Kefalas, Merrifield, Todd

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1016

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF RURAL HOSPITALS IN COLORADO, AND,**
102 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DECLARING MARCH 8, 2017, TO BE**
103 **"PROTECTING RURAL HOSPITALS DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Nearly half of all Colorado hospitals are in rural
2 areas; and

3 WHEREAS, Vulnerable rural communities depend upon their rural
4 hospital as an important and often the only source of health care services;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals often face workforce shortages,
7 volatile economic conditions, and changing demographics; and

8 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals are typically smaller and have fewer

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 patients and resources, but still provide a broad range of services to meet
2 the needs of their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Many rural Colorado hospitals face unsustainable and
4 uncertain futures as a result of recent budget cuts, leaving their
5 communities at risk for losing access to vital health care services; and

6 WHEREAS, 17 of Colorado's 64 counties have no hospitals; and

7 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals not only provide crucial health care
8 services to their communities but also play a significant role in local
9 economies, generating \$2.28 in economic activity for every \$1 spent; and

10 WHEREAS, Viable options are needed if Colorado's rural
11 communities are going to maintain access to the health care services they
12 need in the long term; now, therefore,

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

15 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

16 (1) Express our appreciation and gratitude to all those Coloradans
17 who dedicate their time and energy to providing access to health care
18 services in rural communities;

19 (2) Recognize the importance of protecting rural hospitals and
20 health care; and

21 (3) Declare March 8, 2017, to be "Protecting Rural Hospitals Day"
22 in Colorado.

23 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
24 to: The members of Colorado's congressional delegation; Gov. John W.
25 Hickenlooper, Jr.; the Colorado Hospital Association; and all of
26 Colorado's rural hospitals.