

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-0981.02 Darren Thornberry x4143

SJR17-029

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tate and Fields,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wist and Buckner,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-029

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2, 2017, AS "CHILDREN'S**
102 **HEALTH DAY" IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, Good health lays the groundwork for success in many
2 areas of a child's life; and

3 WHEREAS, When children are healthy – physically, mentally, and
4 socially – they are more likely to enter school ready to learn, they miss
5 fewer days of school, and they have the energy and focus to pay attention
6 in the classroom; and

7 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization recommends that
8 children should eat no more than 24 grams (six teaspoons) of added sugar
9 per day, but children are eating an average of 76 grams of sugar (19
10 teaspoons) per day, leading to one in three children now having diabetes;

*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 and

2 WHEREAS, In 2014, about one in four Colorado children was
3 estimated to be overweight or obese; and

4 WHEREAS, Two of three children exercise 20 minutes or less,
5 four times or fewer per week, nowhere near the recommended one hour
6 per day of exercise for all children; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a link between a lack of consumption of
8 fresh produce and lean meats and obesity; and access to such food is often
9 limited in rural areas; and

10 WHEREAS, Low-cost and convenient foods tend to be more
11 highly processed and calorie-dense than more expensive foods and may
12 not provide children with the vitamins and nutrients their brains and
13 bodies need to develop healthily; and

14 WHEREAS, On average, between 2010 and 2012, 35% of
15 Colorado families with children between the ages of 1 and 14 reported
16 that they often or sometimes relied on low-cost foods to feed their
17 families due to limited resources; and

18 WHEREAS, Ensuring that all children have knowledge of and
19 access to adequate healthy food and safe places to exercise and play is
20 essential to ending both malnutrition and obesity in Colorado's children;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Between 2012 and 2014, 229,000 children ages two
23 to 14 were overweight or obese and 41,000 high school students were
24 obese; and

25 WHEREAS, Gov. John W. Hickenlooper stated on March 24,
26 2014, "There is nothing more important to Colorado's future than the
27 success of our children and our ability to capitalize on the opportunities
28 of our future work force leaders, parents, and citizens"; and

29 WHEREAS, According to the 2016 Colorado Health Report Card,
30 the health grade of Colorado's children has improved from 24th to 22nd
31 in the nation, their highest grade in the 10-year history of the Colorado
32 Health Report Card; and

1 WHEREAS, Fifth grade children of Indian Ridge Elementary of
2 the Cherry Creek School District, in partnership with the Living Closer
3 Foundation, have visited the legislature in 2015 and 2016 to:
4 ! Promote children's health, including proper nutrition and a
5 healthy diet;
6 ! Help all Colorado kids to be ShFat That! kids by providing
7 nutrition education in schools, which includes scientific
8 knowledge of the adverse effects of excessive sugar
9 consumption on the human body, and using the
10 student-initiated ShFat That! program best practices, which
11 include: drinking water, eating real food while limiting
12 processed and junk food, and playing outside every day;
13 and
14 ! Promote a Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of
15 sugar; now, therefore,

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

18 That we, the General Assembly:

19 (1) Support the promotion of health for Colorado children by
20 designating May 2, 2017, as "Children's Health Day";

21 (2) Believe that providing children in child care, school, and
22 community settings with nutritious foods and plenty of opportunities for
23 exercise are important steps to giving children a healthy start in life; and

24 (3) Encourage schools, health professionals, and organizations to
25 design activities and educational programs on "Children's Health Day"
26 that meet the needs of individual communities.

27 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
28 to: Bill Jaeger, Vice President, Colorado Children's Campaign; Dr.
29 Jandel T. Allen-Davis, Vice President of Government, External Relations,
30 and Research, Kaiser Permanente; Ellen Steiner, Policy Coordinator at
31 Colorado Children's Hospital; Dr. Richard J. Johnson, Professor in the
32 Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical
33 Campus; Dr. Stephen R. Daniels, Chairman of the Department of
34 Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Children's
35 Hospital Colorado; Jenny Brundin, Education Reporter at Colorado
36 Public Radio; the Colorado Innovation Network, a division of the

1 Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade;
2 Governor John Hickenlooper; Sue Glass, Executive Director, American
3 Diabetes Association; the Living Closer Foundation; and Leslie Levine,
4 Technical Assistance & Research Coordinator at LiveWell Colorado.