

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1049.01 Owen Colling x4338

SJR17-015

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kefalas and Gardner,

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Lee and Willett,

Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-015

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
102 **MONTH IN COLORADO.**

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Conflict resolution is taught and practiced by citizens
10 in many school systems, universities, and graduate programs throughout

*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 Colorado and the world as a way of resolving disputes; and

2 WHEREAS, Community-based conflict resolution programs work
3 to strengthen local relationships by fairly and equitably resolving
4 neighborhood and community conflicts and opening community dialogues
5 based in reason and mutual respect; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (3) That we call upon leaders across the state to use Conflict
2 Resolution Month in Colorado as an occasion to discuss the principles
3 and use the practices of conflict resolution in their homes, schools,
4 neighborhoods, congregations, and workplaces; and

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

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

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

25 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution also
26 be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper; Patricia M. Jarzowski, President,
27 Colorado Bar Association; Matt Riede, Chair, Colorado Restorative
28 Justice Coordinating Council; Lee Ann Colacioppo, Editor, *The Denver*
29 *Post*; Vince Bzdek, Editor, *The Colorado Springs Gazette*; Jay Seaton,
30 Publisher, *The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*; Sara Johnson, President,
31 Mediation Association of Colorado; Sharon Sturges, Program Director,
32 Office of Dispute Resolution in the Colorado Judicial Department; Brian
33 Price, Board President, The Conflict Center; Dilpreet Jammu, Board
34 Chair, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; Adam Foster and James Carr,
35 Co-chairs, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Colorado Bar
36 Association; and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.