

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1099.01 Owen Colling x4338

SJR16-013

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Newell,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-013

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, ombuds activities, and restorative justice;
4 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 solving 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 include more creative and
14 more durable interest-based resolution; increased satisfaction for the
15 parties who are active participants and ultimate decision-makers in the
16 negotiation; and the preservation of personal relationships, thereby
17 decreasing the likelihood of strained relations among the parties and
18 further disputes; and

19 WHEREAS, The Colorado legislature's reputation for working
20 across party lines to enact sound policy has had a very real impact on
21 economic progress and job creation throughout the state; and

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

25 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
26 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

27 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, join
28 the Governor in recognizing October 2016 as Conflict Resolution Month
29 in the state;

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

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

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

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

7 *Be It Further Resolved*, That, in conjunction with Conflict
8 Resolution Month in Colorado, October 2016, the General Assembly
9 encourages development of educational and training programs that
10 emphasize the special benefits of facilitative, interest-based,
11 party-centered, and restorative mediation and that bring these special
12 benefits to the attention of judges and other officials and staff in the state
13 court system, state executive branch, and local governments throughout
14 the state.

15 *Be It Further Resolved*, That the General Assembly encourages the
16 participation of judges and other officials and staff in the state judicial
17 branch, state executive branch, and local governments in projects and
18 programs celebrating and observing Conflict Resolution Month 2016;
19 and, like House Joint Resolution 97-1020, that copies of this Joint
20 Resolution be sent to the chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, the
21 state court administrator, the chief judge of each judicial district in the
22 state, and the court administrator of each judicial district in the state.

23 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution also
24 be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper; Patrick Flaherty, Executive
25 Director, Colorado Bar Association; Perrie McMillen, Chair, Colorado
26 Restorative Justice Coordinating Council; Gregory L. Moore, Editor, *The*
27 *Denver Post*; Sara Johnson, President of the Mediation Association of
28 Colorado; Holly Panetta, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution in the
29 Colorado Judicial Department; Brian Price, President, Board of Directors,
30 The Conflict Center; Beth Chronister and Dilpreet Jammu, Co-Presidents,
31 Board of Directors, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; and each member
32 of Colorado's congressional delegation.