



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1041

BY REPRESENTATIVES Williams S., Alexander, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Clapp, Coleman, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Lawrence, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Ragsdale, Romanoff, Sanchez, Stafford, Tochtrop, Veiga, Williams T., Witwer, Groff, Grossman, and Weddig;

also SENATORS Hanna, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Isgar, Linkhart, Nichol, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Takis, Tate, Tupa, Windels, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Hernandez, Hillman, Lamborn, Matsunaka, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Owen, Reeves, Taylor, Teck, and Thiebaut.

CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE ISSUES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, COMMENDING THE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION FOR ITS WORK REGARDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN.

WHEREAS, Women and men have different patterns of health and disease as well as differences metabolically, hormonally, and physiologically; and

WHEREAS, Some diseases are more common in women than in men; and

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to suffer from some chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, More than one in five women have some form of cardiovascular disease, and one in two women will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Women are three times more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis and two to three times more likely to suffer from depression than are men; and

WHEREAS, Women are less often referred for diagnostic tests and less often treated for heart disease as compared to men; and

WHEREAS, Women who smoke are up to six times as likely to suffer a heart attack as non-smoking women, and women smokers have a higher relative risk of developing cardiovascular disease than do men; and

WHEREAS, Women are ten times more likely than men to contract HIV during unprotected sex; and

WHEREAS, Women outnumber men three to one in long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Women are much more likely to provide health care to family members; and

WHEREAS, As the primary decision-makers for choices in family health care, women account for the allocation of two of every three health care dollars; and

WHEREAS, There is evidence that women are under-treated compared to men; and

WHEREAS, There is abundant evidence that women are under-represented in health studies; and

WHEREAS, Although there has been some national attention directed to women's health care issues, and some legislative activity by the Congress on access issues, there remains more to do to address vitally important preventive care and treatment issues; and

WHEREAS, Women have the right to receive quality treatment and access to the latest technologies and appropriate diagnostic tests; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, with direction from the general assembly and opportunities offered by the federal government, has already taken the following steps to achieve improved and equal access for women to quality health care:

(a) Established a women's health section to address the emerging needs of Colorado women; and

(b) Created an arthritis, cardiovascular disease, physical fitness, wellness, and diabetes program with a focus on women; and

(c) Implemented a special women and smoking program in the state tobacco program to promote nonsmoking among women; and

(d) Maintains the Colorado women's cancer control initiative program, which includes the new efforts regarding detection and treatment for breast and cervical cancer; and

(e) Is seeking a grant to address osteoporosis; and

(f) Has begun a community planning process to develop a strategic plan on women's health; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That it is the sense of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado that, to achieve improved and equal access for women to quality health care, every insurance carrier is encouraged to offer coverage choices to address women's health care issues and to take appropriate action to:

- (1) Provide women equal access to quality health care, including state-of-the-art medical advances and technology;
- (2) Increase the number of women covered by comprehensive health care insurance, including primary and preventive health care for all women;
- (3) Prevent serious health problems with timely diagnosis and treatment programs;
- (4) Promote strategies to increase patient access to recommended diagnostic and screening tests, preventive health regimens, and recommended treatments;
- (5) Encourage unimpeded access to women's specialty health providers;
- (6) Create and promote public and private partnerships to create programs designed to improve the scope and quality of women's health care;
- (7) Improve communications between providers and patients;
- (8) Continue to expand participation of women of color in clinical trials;
- (9) Increase government and private research on women's health issues and the differences between men and women and how such differences affect the quality of health care received by each;

(10) Conduct more health outcomes research to demonstrate the value of women's health care interventions and preventive health measures in both the short term and the long term;

(11) Support public education campaigns that increase women's awareness about their unique health risks and instruct women how to negotiate the complexities of today's health care system to obtain the best care available;

(12) Foster development and dissemination of publicly available information on the quality of health care and health outcomes that improve women's ability to choose the best women's health care plan.

Be It Further Resolved, That it is the sense of the General Assembly to commend the organization Women in Government for its leadership and enterprise in expressing to Colorado the appropriate urgency of need and meaningful steps that can be taken to attain improved and equal access for women to quality health care, technologies, and treatments; education of researchers about gender differences; and unimpeded access to women's health providers.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
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