



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 03-001

BY SENATOR(S) Hanna, Phillips, Arnold, Dyer, Entz, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Keller, Kester, Linkhart, Nichol, Owen, Reeves, Sandoval, Taylor, Teck, Windels, and Tupa;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Young, Borodkin, Briggs, Coleman, Frangas, Paccione, Ragsdale, Rippey, Vigil, Weddig, Boyd, Butcher, Garcia, Hoppe, Marshall, McFadyen, Rhodes, Romanoff, and Spradley.

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO FULFILL THE PLEDGE TO HELP
FUND STATES TO FIGHT TERRORIST ATTACKS.

WHEREAS, The devastating September 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., changed the way our nation thinks about terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Those attacks, during which hundreds of police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel died along with thousands of civilians, emphasized the need for all levels of government to devote additional resources and devise creative new strategies toward preventing future attacks on United States soil and minimizing the impacts of any future terrorist attacks on the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The first line of defense in protecting life and property often falls to the states and local communities; and

WHEREAS, Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians are often the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency or disaster, and every day, many of these dedicated "first responders" place themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Because terrorist attacks could strike at any time, having adequate numbers of properly trained and equipped first responders will be critical to forestalling and minimizing the potential loss of life in possible future terrorist attacks, as well as meeting the challenges of other types of

emergencies or natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that federal homeland security mandates cost states \$4 billion in 2002 and that the cost of training and equipping first responders continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, In January 2002, President George W. Bush told an audience of mayors and other local government officials gathered at the White House that he would commit more than \$1 billion for first responder training as part of his Homeland Security legislative package, and was quoted as saying: "Your police forces, your emergency medical teams, your fire fighters . . . are responsible for the first response on any terrorist attack, and are responsible for saving lives. The first minutes or hours after an attack, are the most hopeful minutes for saving lives"; and

WHEREAS, The President requested that Congress include \$3.5 billion in the 2003 budget for states' homeland security needs; and

WHEREAS, The Congress has only provided a portion of the moneys for states' homeland security needs in the 2003 budget; and

WHEREAS, It has been the expressed desire of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado to ensure that our state is properly prepared and adequately staffed with trained and properly equipped first responders; now, therefore,

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

That the General Assembly of the state of Colorado reaffirms its commitment to strengthening our cities and counties as the first line of defense of our people, and to giving our first responders the training, equipment, and resources they need to respond to terrorist attacks.

Be It Further Resolved, That because the severe budget crisis in Colorado and other states limits the states' ability to provide such necessary training, equipment, and resources to protect citizens, the General Assembly of the state of Colorado calls upon Congress to fulfill the pledge to provide badly needed funding to the states to train and equip first responders. Fulfilling this pledge would be a cost effective-way to help make the homeland more secure.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each member of Colorado's Congressional Delegation.

John Andrews
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Lola Spradley
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mona Heustis
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____