



## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 03-1062**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES** Stafford, Coleman, Frangas, Johnson R., Williams S., Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Briggs, Brophy, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll, Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Crane, Decker, Fairbank, Fritz, Garcia, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Judd, King, Larson, Lee, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Miller, Mitchell, Paccione, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippy, Romanoff, Rose, Salazar, Schultheis, Sinclair, Smith, Spence, Spradley, Stengel, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Weddig, Weissmann, White, Wiens, Williams T., Witwer, and Young;

**also SENATORS** Linkhart, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Sandoval, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Teck, Tupa, and Windels.

## **CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the well-being and vitality of Colorado's citizens, families, communities, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The President's New Freedom Commission declared that mental disorders and mental health problems, including substance abuse disorders, affect people of all backgrounds and all stages of life, and that no one is immune; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization found that mental illnesses collectively are the most prevalent health problem in the United States today, more common than cancer and lung and heart disease combined, and are the number one cause of disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mental illnesses, including substance abuse, affect one in five Americans every year, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, One in ten children has a serious mental disorder that, if untreated, can lead to poor performance or failure in school, physical illness, substance abuse, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Mental disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety disorders are real, common, and treatable; and

WHEREAS, The long-term consequences of untreated mental disorders in children and adults are costly, in both human and fiscal terms; and

WHEREAS, The State of Colorado recognizes the need for a comprehensive, community-based system of mental health care for all citizens and a commitment to the core values and guiding principles of a system of care for children with mental health needs and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council; the Colorado Cornerstone System of Care Initiative and its partner families, agencies, and organizations; Family Directions; the Colorado chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; the Denver / Aurora chapter of the Federation of Families of Children's Mental Health and the Denver Advocacy Network; Harambe; the Jefferson County Family Support Network; the Mental Health Association of Colorado; the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - CO;

the partners of Project BLOOM for Children's Mental Health in Colorado; State Children's Health and Rehabilitation Services; and State Mental Health Services and their partners observe Mental Health Month each May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and illness; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly, do hereby declare May, 2003, Mental Health Month in Colorado. Further, we call upon all Colorado citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

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Lola Spradley  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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John Andrews  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Judith Rodrigue  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mona Heustis  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE