

HOUSE JOURNAL
SIXTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
First Regular Session

Second Legislative Day

Thursday, January 10, 2013

1 Prayer by Pastor Rick Long, Grace Church of Arvada.

2

3 The Speaker called the House to order at 10:00 a.m.

4

5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Bremma Priola and Turin Priola.

6

7 The roll was called with the following result:

8

9 Present--65.

10

11 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

12

13

14

15

16 On motion of Representative Buck, the reading of the journal of January
17 9, 2013, was declared dispensed with and approved as corrected by the
18 Chief Clerk.

19

20

21

22

23

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

24

25 [HJR13-1003](#) by Representative(s) Hullinghorst, Ferrandino, Waller;
26 also Senator(s) Carroll, Morse, Cadman--Concerning a
27 Joint Session of the House of Representatives and the
28 Senate for the purpose of hearing a message from the
29 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and appointing a
30 committee to escort the Chief Justice.

31

32 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

33

34 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted** by
35 **viva voce** vote.

36

37 The Speaker appointed Representatives Kagan, Chairman; Lee, and
38 Lawrence be appointed to escort Chief Justice Bender to the rostrum
39 pursuant to the resolution.

40

41 [HR13-1003](#) by Representative(s) Court, Conti, Coram, Williams--
42 Concerning employees and positions for the House of
43 Representatives convened in the First Regular Session of
44 the Sixty-ninth General Assembly.

1 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

2

3 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted** by
4 **viva voce** vote.

5

6 **HR13-1004** by Representative(s) Court, Conti, Coram, Williams--
7 Concerning the Chaplain position in the House of
8 Representatives.

9

10 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

11

12 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted** by
13 **viva voce** vote.

14

15

16

17 **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

18

19 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the rules were suspended and
20 the following resolutions were given immediate consideration.

21

22 **HR13-1005** by Representative(s) Hullinghorst, Ferrandino, Waller--
23 Concerning a change to the rules of the house of
24 representatives regarding the categorization of committees
25 for purposes of scheduling meetings.

26

27 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

28

29 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted**
30 by **viva voce** vote.

31

32 **HJR13-1005** by Representative(s) Hullinghorst, Ferrandino, Waller;
33 also Senator(s) Carroll--Concerning the oversight
34 responsibilities of committees of the house of
35 representatives.

36

37 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

38

39 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted** by
40 **viva voce** vote.

41

42 **HR13-1006** by Representative(s) Ferrandino--Concerning the approval
43 by the House of Representatives of the Speaker's
44 appointment of Rosemary Marshall to fill the House
45 appointee vacancy on the Independent Ethics Commission.

46

47 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

48

49 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the resolution was **adopted**
50 by **viva voce** vote.

51

52

53

54 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

55

56 The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: SJR13-002, SJR13-003.

57

1 **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

2
3 On motion of Representative Hulinghorst, the rules were suspended and
4 the following resolutions were given immediate consideration.

5
6 **SJR13-002** by Senator(s) Carroll, Morse, Cadman; also
7 Representative(s) Court, Conti, Coram, Williams--
8 Concerning the officers and employees of the First
9 Regular Session of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly.

10
11 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

12
13 On motion of Representative Hulinghorst, the resolution was **adopted**
14 by **viva voce** vote.

15
16
17 **SJR13-003** by Senator(s) Morse; also Representative(s) Ferrandino--
18 Concerning the appointment of members of the Colorado
19 Commission on Uniform State Laws.

20
21 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

22
23 On motion of Representative Hulinghorst, the resolution was **adopted**
24 by **viva voce** vote.

25
26
27
28 House in recess for Joint Session.
29
30

31
32 **JOINT SESSION**

33
34 The Joint Session was called to order by the Speaker of the House, Mark
35 Ferrandino.

36
37 On motion of Senator Carroll, the morning roll call of the Senate was
38 made the roll call of the Joint Session.

39
40 Present--35.

41
42 On motion of Representative Hulinghorst, the morning roll call of the
43 House was made the roll call of the Joint Session.

44
45 Present--65.

46
47 The Speaker declared a quorum present and as is customary presented the
48 gavel to the President of the Senate to preside over the Joint Session.

49
50 President Morse requested the Joint Committee, composed of Senators
51 Todd, Ulibarri, and Brophy, and Representatives Duran, Exum, and
52 DelGrosso to escort Governor John Hickenlooper to the rostrum.

53
54 Chief Sergeant-at-Arms John Wallin announced the arrival of the
55 Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado.

56

1 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he
2 addressed the Joint Session.

3

4

5

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE

6

John Hickenlooper

7

8 Thank you Mr. President. It's good to see so many friends . and so many
9 new faces. Two years ago you welcomed me to this chamber; today, let
10 me welcome all of our new lawmakers to state government.

11 2012 was a hard year.

12 During last fall's Pedal The Plains, as I pushed against a headwind on a
13 two-lane highway between Wray and Burlington, I found myself
14 remembering the summer.

15 Whether walking our new family dog or working out in the gym . those
16 images were never far away.

17 Wildfires ravaged homes; destroyed property; destroyed lives.

18 At one point there were 10 wildfires raging across Colorado -388,000
19 acres burned, 648 homes were destroyed and six people were killed.

20 Then . shootings in a dark theater.

21 Twelve lives lost.

22 Days we will never forget.

23 Please join me in a moment of silence to honor those who died last year
24 . and to remember those who are still recovering.

25 During each emergency last year first responders and volunteers worked
26 long hours to save homes . to save lives.

27 Some firefighters in Rist Canyon watched their own homes burn as they
28 fought to save a historic schoolhouse. It takes uncommon character to
29 make that kind of sacrifice, but we saw such valor repeatedly.

30 We can't personally thank everyone who helped battle the blazes this year,
31 but we've asked two people to be here today as representatives of those
32 who worked the fires.

33 Specialist Duran Cornelius is a Colorado National Guard firefighter. He
34 and the members of his unit were activated to fight the High Park Fire.
35 Colorado Springs Fire Chief Rich Brown and the men and women in his
36 department battled the Waldo Canyon Fire. Please help me acknowledge
37 Specialist Cornelius and Chief Brown.

38 Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach is also here. He came of age as a
39 new mayor, seemingly being everywhere and helping to bring his
40 community together when it needed it most.

41 The police and firefighters in Aurora faced a different crisis.

42 Less than 90 seconds after the first dispatch, officers were on the scene.

43 Standard response protocols gave way to gut instincts. Police cruisers
44 became make-shift ambulances.

45 We met survivors who helped strangers escape the theater and teenagers
46 who rushed their friends to emergency rooms. We mourned with family
47 members whose loved ones died while shielding someone else.

48 These are stories of courage and resilience. One victim in an Aurora
49 hospital told me: "The outpouring of light and love is so much more
50 powerful than any darkness."

51 Please join me in acknowledging Police Chief Dan Oates and Fire Chief
52 Mike Garcia - and the men and women they represent.

53 Please also help me acknowledge Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan for his
54 steadfast leadership in the days, weeks and months after the shooting.

55 Even in the hardest of times we reach out to each other . we look beyond
56 sorrow, and we fix our gaze on the horizon.

1 Belief in a better tomorrow is the story of the West.
2 This is our history.
3 We have an obligation to prevent similar tragedies, to do good, to bring
4 light to darkness. We have an obligation to represent the best that is
5 Colorado.
6 This isn't a Democratic or Republican agenda. It's a Colorado agenda. It's
7 our common mission. I know each of you shares this commitment. You
8 wouldn't be here otherwise.
9 I want to acknowledge Senate President John Morse, House Speaker
10 Mark Ferrandino, Minority Leader Bill Cadman and Minority Leader
11 Mark Waller.
12 Let me also thank Joe Garcia, here today with his wife, Claire, who is
13 without question the best lieutenant governor in the country.
14 Let me also thank members of my administration and Cabinet. It is a great
15 joy to work with such a remarkably talented group of people.
16 Our thanks as well to Attorney General John Suthers, Treasurer Walker
17 Stapleton and Secretary of State Scott Gessler . and the distinguished
18 members of the Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado State Board of
19 Education here today.
20 We are grateful to have with us Colorado's U.S. Senators, Mark Udall and
21 Michael Bennet. Washington would be a better place if we had more
22 senators like them.
23 Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, our great partner from across the park,
24 is here . and so is Chairman Gary Hayes from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe.
25 Thank you both for joining us.
26 On a personal level, I appreciate Helen being here today. Even with the
27 changes in our life, she remains a beacon of light to Teddy and me for all
28 that is good and just.
29 This might be the appropriate time to note that the road to the Super Bowl
30 goes right through Denver.
31 We want to wish coach John Fox, everyone's favorite No. 18, and all of
32 the Denver Broncos good luck this weekend. Beat Baltimore!
33 Some of you have noticed that today marks the mid-point in our first term
34 . though we really prefer to look at it as only a quarter of the way through
35 our administration.
36 This job is a little bit like memory foam. As long as you are sitting on it,
37 you know you are making an impression.
38 Two years ago, we faced a national recession and the largest drop in
39 revenue in the state's history. We had no choice but to cut funding for
40 schools and other essential services.
41 Today, with an improving economy, we have the beginnings of a reserve
42 fund and we should protect it. We are restoring funding for education -
43 not enough to make up for the \$1 billion shortfall we experienced in the
44 Great Recession - but our steps are in the right direction.
45 When we took office we said our focus would be on jobs and we have
46 kept that focus. Our goal then - our goal today - is to make Colorado the
47 best state for entrepreneurship and business.
48 Our Economic Development Blueprint was not a top-down effort; instead,
49 we engaged more than 8,000 Coloradans in a comprehensive approach to
50 identify, and break down barriers to job creation.
51 We expanded this engagement process with TBD Colorado.
52 Coloradans told us that excessive red tape, including unnecessary and
53 duplicative regulations were holding back job creation.
54 With your help, we have been engaged in a thorough scrub of state rules
55 and procedures. Called "Pits and Peeves" . we reviewed approximately
56

1 7,500 rules . and more than half of these rules will be repealed or
2 modified. And we're not done.
3 In addition to striking rules and regulations, we are making government
4 work more efficiently. Nothing illustrates the case better than our work
5 with the LEAN process.
6 A little more than a year ago, we launched LEAN projects in state
7 agencies. By the end of March we will have more than 100 LEAN
8 projects underway . more than any state in the country.
9 One group of state employees engaged in the LEAN process came to the
10 uncomfortable conclusion that many of the tasks they were performing
11 were not necessary.
12 Putting their own livelihoods in question, they came forward and as a
13 result a process that once took weeks will now take one day and will save
14 nearly \$2.1 million annually.
15 With so many baby boomers retiring, we are working to find other state
16 positions for these 38 outstanding employees.
17 Other efficiencies include CDOT changing how it budgets for multi-year
18 transportation projects.
19 This is a better approach to budgeting that comes with an annual bump of
20 \$300 million for five years. This program provides a critical boost to the
21 construction industry by directly sustaining or creating an estimated
22 10,500 jobs.
23 In the next year, we will continue replacing the antiquated unemployment
24 systems through the WyCAN consortium - that's Wyoming, Colorado,
25 Arizona and North Dakota for those reading from the acronym dictionary.
26 This is a national model for collaboration and the use of technology.
27 Thanks to the support of Colorado employers, this network will replace
28 a 25-year-old system, which means unemployed Coloradans will get their
29 benefits faster and more quickly return to work.
30 Two years ago, Colorado was caught in a bygone era with rules and
31 procedures that made more sense back when we used electric typewriters.
32 The state personnel system operated with 19th-century rules and with
33 none of the modern systems that business today uses to attract and
34 promote talent.
35 After 11 failed attempts over 40 years - and with the help of former Govs.
36 Bill Owens and Bill Ritter, the General Assembly and in partnership with
37 state employees - Colorado voters passed Amendment S . finally bringing
38 the state's outdated personnel system into the 21st century.
39 Some other amendments passed in November .. one on federal campaign
40 finance reform ... and another, for the life of me I can't remember the
41 third one.
42 Oh yeah, Amendment 64.
43 We now have a task force hard at work considering the legal and policy
44 implications of Amendment 64, and we are determined to implement this
45 new law in a way the promotes the health and safety of all Coloradans.
46 We need to expand our DUI law to keep our highways safe from those
47 driving while impaired, and we must put in place consumer and
48 regulatory safeguards and provide law enforcement with effective tools
49 to keep marijuana out of the reach of kids.
50 By any objective measure, we have made significant progress in getting
51 Colorado out of this recession. Forbes magazine recently listed Colorado
52 among the five best states for business.
53 We know that to maintain a business climate that attracts entrepreneurs
54 and world-class businesses we need to prepare world-class graduates.
55 And we are doing this.
56 Colorado leads the nation in establishing a system to measure teacher

1 effectiveness. Last year, we built on this reform by passing an early
2 childhood literacy program that is among the most innovative in the
3 country. The Read Act identifies struggling readers early and provides
4 interventions so that all children can read by the end of third grade.
5 Last month Colorado received a \$29.9 million "Race to the Top" grant to
6 support early childhood education and enhance early literacy.
7 Early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make to
8 ensure Colorado's kids are competitive and prepared for the future. It was
9 also a priority we about heard repeatedly in the TBD Colorado process.
10 With your support, we will serve up to 6,500 new kindergartners and pre-
11 schoolers.
12 We must continue to build the best educator pipeline in the country,
13 attracting the best and brightest people to enter teaching, and finding new
14 ways to retain and reward the transformative teachers we have now.
15 It means ensuring that we have a school finance formula that offers equity
16 to all districts and opportunity to all kids, and it means all of us
17 committing to making Colorado the national leader, not just on reform,
18 but on results.
19 Reforming the education system doesn't end at 12th grade.
20 It continues into higher education.
21 This month, we will adopt a need-based financial allocation process.
22 Unique in the nation, it supports Coloradans with the highest need and
23 incentivizes retention and timely completion.
24 Together, with performance contracts, we now have a shared commitment
25 from our colleges and universities to focus on results and completion.
26 We also need a world-class health care system.
27 Unlike most states, where health care reform has been a politically-
28 divisive fight, Colorado passed bipartisan health exchange legislation.
29 Consumers and small businesses will have an efficient and cost-effective
30 way to obtain insurance.
31 This is one of many steps toward making Colorado the healthiest state in
32 the nation. Prevention will play an even more important role.
33 We will continue our efforts to make the state a model employer by
34 working collaboratively with state employees to create a wellness
35 program that lowers health care costs by improving the health of our
36 workforce.
37 Prevention pays. Based on our work with state employees and best
38 practices from the private sector, we will mobilize more private sector
39 enterprises to incentivize their workforces toward healthier lifestyles.
40 In this legislative session, we look forward to working with you to expand
41 Medicaid coverage . but in a way that increases value, reduces expenses
42 and doesn't require additional General Fund dollars.
43 We are also implementing House Bill 09-1293 to cover 10,000 people in
44 Colorado who are adults without children. Many of these people live on
45 our streets.
46 Addressing our most serious challenges requires partnerships with our
47 faith and non-profit communities. One Congregation-One Family is an
48 example of a project with proven success in housing families and seniors
49 who are homeless.
50 Since 2005, this mentoring collaborative has served more than 4,000
51 people who are homeless through the help of almost 400 congregations
52 and involving more than 2,000 volunteer mentors.
53 We continue to work closely with religious and community partners in
54 metro Denver to bring this successful program to Colorado Springs,
55 Grand Junction, Fort Collins and other communities.
56

1 Two leaders of One Congregation-One Family are here today: Don
2 Reeverts and the Rev. Tom Melton. Please help me acknowledge their
3 efforts.
4 Speaking of faith and recovery, the inspirational renewal of the Denver
5 Broncos parallels our state's economic rebound. After a historic recession
6 and several challenging years, our economy is back.
7 Our plan is to keep improving and building on the foundation we have in
8 place.
9 We are working together on a budget that funds education above inflation
10 and enrollment, addresses key priorities in mental health and public
11 safety, supports those with developmental disabilities, and builds the
12 state's financial solvency.
13 While Washington struggles with fiscal cliffs and partisan fights,
14 Colorado demonstrates there is still room for compromise and
15 moderation.
16 Some have suggested a divided government - that is, divided chambers -
17 has been a blessing for our administration.
18 They say I got lucky . but I don't see it that way.
19 Our blessing was not divided government in the last two years; our
20 blessing was in the many relationships we formed with lawmakers from
21 both parties . and that you have with each other.
22 These relationships endure. They span the geography of our state and they
23 transcend political affiliation. And they've been nourished by our working
24 together . helped along every once in a while by a cold Colorado beer.
25 The elections have only intensified our desire to demonstrate that
26 Coloradans are different.
27 We have our disagreements but we always seek the alignment of self-
28 interest. We look for common values and common good.
29 More than anything, we look to the future - our eyes on the far horizon -
30 and we climb mountains together. There are a number of daunting
31 mountains before us.
32 As the wildfires remind us, Colorado is still experiencing a difficult
33 drought.
34 About 95 percent of Colorado is under severe or worse drought
35 conditions. Our snowpack is well below average. This affects far more
36 than the outdoor recreation industry; it impacts all of Colorado.
37 That's why we set a goal of crafting a state water plan by 2015 . and much
38 work has already been done. While expanding reservoir capacity makes
39 sense, and rotational fallowing of agricultural land shows great promise,
40 every discussion about water should start with conservation.
41 The Interbasin Compact Committee and Basin Roundtable process
42 affords stakeholders in each basin a forum for discussion. Our water plan
43 will stand on the shoulders of their work.
44 We know that a plan is not a silver bullet, but it is an essential next step
45 if we are to shape how Colorado will look in the future.
46 As farmers and ranchers brace for what could be another hard year of
47 drought, every property owner who lives in the mountains to our west will
48 need to make their own preparations.
49 The dry conditions make our forests vulnerable, and the communities near
50 or in the forests are at risk.
51 We need to re-examine the way homeowners are insured in the wildland
52 urban interface, and do a better job of encouraging and supporting fire-
53 mitigation practices.
54 We will be requesting funds for projects to remove trees and enhance
55 forest health in high-risk areas.
56 With your support last spring, we centralized our firefighting efforts

1 before some of the worst fires hit Colorado. It paid off as resources were
2 quickly and strategically mobilized.
3 Policy changes are no guarantee that Mother Nature won't be back with
4 a vengeance next summer, but they give us tools to mitigate risks and
5 improve forest management.
6 Many scientists believe that our severe drought, the bark beetle epidemic
7 and the terrible fire season are further evidence of climate change.
8 While no state can address the issue in isolation, reducing pollutants and
9 promoting sustainable development, ought to be common ground for all
10 of us.
11 We already know we can work together on energy.
12 With your help last year, we restored funding for a new Colorado Energy
13 Office. This office will continue to promote energy efficiency, support
14 renewable energy and will lead our efforts to create a national market for
15 compressed natural gas vehicles.
16 Energy development is important to many Colorado counties. In fact,
17 two-thirds of the state's economic development regions say it's a key
18 industry for them.
19 Colorado's economic welfare depends on how effective we are in
20 developing all of our resources. Our physical welfare requires we protect
21 public health and safety as we develop these resources.
22 We can reduce carbon emissions, create good-paying jobs and still protect
23 the environment.
24 The most efficient and effective way to do this is through uniform
25 regulations and rule-making. We know one size doesn't fit all, which is
26 why the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission works with
27 communities to create agreements and oversee local inspections. What
28 doesn't work is a patchwork of rules and regulations.
29 Because of innovations in drilling technology, cheaper, abundant natural
30 gas is helping to make America energy secure for the first time in modern
31 memory.
32 While there are environmental challenges with this process, there are also
33 undeniable environmental benefits. The U.S. is half-way to achieving the
34 reduction in carbon emissions that was contemplated by the Kyoto
35 Protocol, due largely to the use of inexpensive natural gas. The per capita
36 carbon emissions in this country are at the same level as when President
37 Dwight D. Eisenhower turned over the White House to John Kennedy
38 more than 50 years ago.
39 As we regulate this industry - or any industry - in Colorado, let's make
40 sure that our focus is fair, rational and based on science.
41 We can work through these issues in partnership with local government,
42 and to do that we need strong relationships with local officials.
43 This is why we worked so hard on Executive Order No. 5, which deals
44 with state regulations and their impact on local government. This is why
45 we included \$15 million in the budget to help local governments
46 implement water quality nutrient standards . and this is why we reinstated
47 energy impact funds to counties and municipalities.
48 If you need a reminder about the power of working together, look no
49 further than CBMS. Yes, uttering the words Colorado Benefits
50 Management System was an invitation in years past to a fight. But that's
51 different today. Recent improvements mean that Colorado is finally in
52 compliance with the performance benchmarks in providing assistance.
53 These successes, building on the state's collaborative relationships with
54 local governments and special districts, are yet another reason why
55 Colorado stands above other states.
56

1 Our record of addressing difficult problems together makes it possible to
2 discuss gun violence and mental health.
3 There are no easy solutions.
4 Some point to guns, others to a violent culture. Still others believe that the
5 line between community security and individual freedom must be re-
6 drawn.
7 We shouldn't be restrained from discussing any of these issues. Our
8 democracy demands this type of debate.
9 Let me prime the pump: Why not have universal background checks for
10 all gun sales?
11 After Columbine, Colorado voters insisted that gun show sales be
12 regulated, and launched an aggressive effort to prevent school bullying.
13 We have shown in Colorado that we can learn from tragedy and make
14 changes.
15 Surely, Second Amendment advocates and gun control supporters can
16 find common ground in support of this proposition: Let's examine our
17 laws and make the changes needed to keep guns out of the hands of
18 dangerous people.
19 It's not enough to prevent dangerous people from getting weapons.
20 We have to do a better job of identifying and helping people who are a
21 threat to themselves and others. That is why we are requesting your
22 support for a comprehensive overhaul of our state's mental health system.
23 We ask you to pass legislation that will update civil commitment laws,
24 make it easier to identify people with mental illness who are a danger to
25 themselves and others and provide safer, more humane systems for their
26 treatment.
27 We need your continued support as well with sweeping changes made last
28 year to the state's child welfare system.
29 Issues related to guns, mental health and child welfare have added
30 challenges to the agenda we began two years ago. The urgency behind our
31 original agenda, however, continues.
32 On jobs and economic recovery, we ask that you support the modest
33 funding we requested in our budget so that we may continue to attract
34 new investment.
35 Let's build on the successes of the last two years, in which we have seen
36 more than 80,000 new nonfarm payroll jobs. Colorado is the nation's third
37 most economically competitive state, according to the Beacon Hill
38 Institute.
39 We will see more jobs this year with the expansion of a Kaiser
40 Permanente IT Center of Excellence . the opening of Hitachi Data
41 Systems IT hub. a Coleman Outdoor Gear leadership center. and
42 expansions from Covidien . Bal-Seal Engineering . and SCL Health
43 System.
44 These are just a few of the companies growing throughout Colorado.
45 We have begun an inventory of state "assets" that the private sector can
46 use to make location and investment decisions. With your support we
47 hope to partner with the Secretary of State and fund a comprehensive
48 "suite of business services" that will give entrepreneurs additional
49 resources to grow their businesses.
50 I must have opened 20 businesses in my previous life. I can tell you these
51 services are needed and will help small business.
52 We also ask that you pass House Bill 1 . bipartisan legislation that will
53 support "advanced industries" in Colorado.
54 And we ask that you support a reform of the enterprise zone program so
55 that we are both fair to taxpayers and responsible in extending benefits to
56 support development. I know from my own days of opening businesses

1 that enterprise zones help, especially when you are trying to grow. But it
2 is time to update the rules.
3 Businesses depend on the cross-currents of talent, capital and ideas. This
4 summer Colorado will host two international events around these
5 principles . and we welcome you to attend both.
6 The first, the Biennial of the Americas, will have a unique focus on
7 business, democracy and the arts from all across the Western Hemisphere.
8 The second annual COIN Summit, hosted by the Colorado Innovation
9 Network, will take place in August . . We will convene national and
10 international stakeholders to discuss technology, workforce development,
11 higher education and our state's brand.
12 We do believe in branding . and by the way no animals were harmed in
13 the making of this speech . . and we are excited about the work Aaron
14 Kennedy is doing to market Colorado for business and tourists alike.
15 Aaron created Noodles and Co. in his previous life and after selling the
16 company a couple of years ago, he joined our team last fall as the state's
17 first Chief Marketing Officer.
18 He is among a growing number of successful entrepreneurs we are luring
19 into public service through a Colorado-initiated national effort called
20 Leadocracy. These leaders make all of us in government better - they
21 make Colorado better.
22 And speaking of Colorado leaders, let's not forget our veterans and those
23 on active duty. This week, we welcomed home 208 of our National Guard
24 men and women.
25 We are joined today by Staff Sgt. Joy Bryant from Colorado Springs. Her
26 unit returned to Colorado less than 12 hours ago. Staff Sgt. Bryant, thank
27 you for your service, and welcome home.
28 We have worked with business and our own employment system to make
29 hiring veterans a priority, and we also have provided greater support for
30 their families.
31 We will do all we can to end veteran homelessness.
32 As mentioned earlier, there are quite a few mountains we ought to climb
33 together before this session ends in May.
34 Some of us tried very hard, but it didn't get done last year. This year, let's
35 do it. Let's pass civil unions!
36 Let's find an equitable and fair way for undocumented kids - kids who
37 have grown up here and done well in school - to pursue a higher
38 education.
39 We are grateful to the more than 2,000 participants in TBD Colorado as
40 well as the Board of Directors and volunteers. We have talked about a
41 few of the findings already today.
42 This statewide outreach also showed that when presented with
43 nonpartisan facts and the chance to talk about how our budget and tax
44 rules work, Coloradans came to the conclusion that the state is on an
45 unsustainable fiscal course.
46 TABOR, the Gallagher Amendment and Amendment 23 shouldn't be
47 viewed in isolation. They create a fiscal knot that can't be untied one
48 strand at a time. Efforts to rewrite the School Finance Act would be well-
49 served to take this into consideration.
50 We want to work with you to explore creative ideas on how best to
51 reform the way our Constitution is so easily amended. There are a number
52 of ideas already circulating. This is another mountain we should climb
53 together.
54 When I was a kid I loved adventure stories. Being dyslexic meant that
55 reading was a challenge, but I could still get carried off by a great writer.
56 Robert Louis Stevenson was a favorite.

1 I later heard a story about Stevenson's childhood in 19th century Scotland.
2 At night, he would peer from his window and watch lamplighters go
3 about their job.
4 Climbing tall ladders, carrying torches, the lamplighters would light the
5 street lamps one after another.
6 The process fascinated young Stevenson.
7 One night, as he watched with growing fascination, his father asked what
8 he was doing.
9 Excitement in his voice, Stevenson said, "Look at that man! He's
10 punching holes in the darkness!"
11 Punching holes in the darkness.
12 When you think about it, there is nothing more rewarding than punching
13 holes in darkness.
14 The young entrepreneur punches a hole in darkness when she sells a
15 product that creates a job.
16 The dry land farmer on the Eastern Plains punches holes in darkness
17 every time he harvests a crop.
18 Missy Franklin punches holes in the darkness by inspiring a new
19 generation of athletes.
20 Teachers punch holes in darkness every day. Whenever a child learns
21 something new, light emerges in that child's life.
22 This past year we saw lamplighters all around us.
23 We can all be lamplighters . working together, we can punch some pretty
24 big holes in the darkness.
25 Thank you . and thank you for making Colorado a better place.
26
27

28 _____
29 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor from the Chamber.
30 _____
31

32 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the Governor's message was
33 ordered printed in the House Journal.
34 _____
35

36 On motion of Senator Carroll, the Joint Session was dissolved.
37 _____
38

39 House reconvened.
40 _____
41

42
43 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the House adjourned until
44 10:00 a.m., January 11, 2013.
45

46 Approved:
47 MARK FERRANDINO,
48 Speaker

49 Attest:
50 MARILYN EDDINS,
51 Chief Clerk