

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R15-0910.01 Effie Ameen x2044

**SJR15-022**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Newell,**

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**Lee,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-022**

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION**  
102 **MONTH" IN COLORADO.**

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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 2015 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 2015, 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 2015;  
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; Miriam Peña, Director, Denver  
25 Office of Strategic Partnerships; Patrick Flaherty, Executive Director,  
26 Colorado Bar Association; Spiro Koinis, Chair, Colorado Restorative  
27 Justice Coordinating Council; Gregory L. Moore, Editor, *The Denver*  
28 *Post*; Robyn McDonald, President of the Mediation Association of  
29 Colorado; Holly Panetta, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution in the  
30 Colorado Judicial Department; Michael Hoops, President, Board of  
31 Directors, The Conflict Center; Rabbi Jamie Arnold, President, Board of  
32 Directors, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; Mary Zinn, President, Zinn  
33 Mediation Associates; Barbara Fields, Executive Director, Association  
34 for Global New Thought; each of the following organizations for posting  
35 on their web sites: The Colorado Association of School Boards, the  
36 Colorado Municipal League, the Colorado District Attorneys' Council,  
37 and Colorado Counties, Inc.; and each member of Colorado's  
38 congressional delegation.