



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 05-004

BY SENATOR(S) Tapia, Keller, Owen, Anderson, Bacon, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson, Jones, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Sandoval, Shaffer, Spence, Takis, Teck, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, Wiens, Williams, and Windels;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Plant, Buescher, Hall, Boyd, Carroll M., Cloer, Coleman, Gallegos, Madden, McFadyen, Merrifield, Paccione, and Riesberg.

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 created the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which has been successful in decreasing welfare caseloads nationwide by half; and

WHEREAS, This program was scheduled to be reauthorized by October 1, 2002, but the United States Congress has been unable to complete reauthorization legislation. TANF and related programs, including federal child care funding, are operating under an extension that lasts until June 30, 2005, the eighth extension of the program; and

WHEREAS, The State of Colorado is committed to welfare reform and wishes to continue to build on the success of its TANF program, which, according to the "State Plan", is "designed to enable families to become self-sufficient and to promote personal responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, State policymakers need predictable policy and budgetary certainty as they make decisions about state programs, and the quarterly extensions of TANF and child care funding have included no final federal decision on welfare policy and funding, leaving states in a quandary; and

WHEREAS, If TANF is not reauthorized legislatively, TANF funding could be included in the federal budget reconciliation process, and the TANF block grant and child care block grant could be cut by as much as ten to twenty percent; and

WHEREAS, Proposed reauthorization legislation being considered by the United States Congress includes provisions to increase work-participation requirements and to penalize states that do not adequately increase work participation; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, urge the members of the United States Congress:

(a) To promptly pass welfare reauthorization legislation with funding at levels adequate to maintain mandated programs. We oppose any shifting of costs to the states; and

(b) To increase funding for child care, particularly if reauthorization includes provisions to increase recipient work-participation requirements; and

(c) To ensure that any provisions to increase recipient work-participation requirements do not unfairly penalize states that improve participation but that are unable to fully attain federal work-participation goals.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to the majority and minority leadership of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation, and to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____

Bill Owens
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO