

**First Regular Session
Sixty-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M05-0920.01 Jeanice Bush

SJM05-004

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 05-004

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

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

5 WHEREAS, This program was scheduled to be reauthorized by
6 October 1, 2002, but the United States Congress has been unable to
7 complete reauthorization legislation. TANF and related programs,
8 including federal child care funding, are operating under an extension that
9 lasts until March 31, 2005, the eighth extension of the program; and

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

14 WHEREAS, State policymakers need predictable policy and
15 budgetary certainty as they make decisions about state programs, and the

*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 quarterly extensions of TANF and child care funding have included no
2 final federal decision on welfare policy and funding, leaving states in a
3 quandary; and

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

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

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

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

16 (a) To promptly pass welfare reauthorization legislation with
17 funding at levels adequate to maintain current programs. We oppose any
18 funding reductions; and

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

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

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