



**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-1038**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES** Cloer, Bacon, Coleman, Decker, Mace, Marshall, Plant, Sanchez, Schultheis, and Stafford;  
**also SENATORS** Epps, Fitz-Gerald, Hanna, Nichol, Teck, and Tupa.

**CONCERNING HEALTH CARE FOR THE WORKING UNINSURED.**

WHEREAS, The number of persons in Colorado who are working but who cannot afford health insurance for themselves or their families is steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, Businesses, especially small businesses, are finding it increasingly difficult to provide affordable health insurance for employees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are approximately 600,000 persons in Colorado who lack health insurance of whom approximately 180,000 are children; and

WHEREAS, The lack of private health insurance costs the State of Colorado over \$28 million from the General Fund to pay for uninsured health care, costs businesses in Colorado loss of the labor of employees who without preventive care become too ill to work, and costs working citizens of Colorado lost wages and jobs because of preventable illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Providing affordable private health insurance for workers will benefit:

- The state by reducing the need for increased General Fund appropriations;
- Businesses by providing a healthier work force;
- Insurance carriers by providing healthier members, more employer participation, and larger risk pools; and
- Workers, by providing affordable preventive health care; and

WHEREAS, The Medical Services Program, Children's Basic Health Plan, and Medically Indigent Program utilize state and federal funds by providing health care coverage for low-income children and families and can create a base of funding to support community-based health care providers and local employers in increasing the number of individuals covered by health insurance; and

WHEREAS, One solution to the lack of affordable health care coverage is to form alliances among public, private, and community-based entities to provide primary and preventative health care services to new employees and their families at no or reduced cost and to transition such families into private health insurance paid for by increasing the amounts paid by both the employee and the employer based upon the length of time that the employee is employed; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, support the efforts of Community Health System, a private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt, community-based organization, in piloting its Healthy Workforce Program, integrating with other workforce development efforts, and identifying regulatory and legal barriers, and ask the Community Health System to provide this information to the interim Health Care Task Force, the Health, Environment, Welfare, and Institutions Committee of the House of Representatives, and the Health, Environment, Children and Families Committee of the Senate.

(2) That the General Assembly encourages the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Insurance to find methods of forming alliances with businesses, health care consumers, and health insurance carriers to provide affordable health care for persons who are employed but unable to afford health insurance premiums.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance.

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Doug Dean  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Stan Matsunaka  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Judith Rodrigue  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE