



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-006

BY SENATOR(S) Perlmutter, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dennis, Dyer (Arapahoe), Dyer (Durango), Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Taylor, Teck, Thiebaut, Tupa, and Windels ;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Dean, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Chavez, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Decker, Fairbank, Fritz, Garcia, Groff, Grossman, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Jameson, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Nuñez, Paschall, Plant, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippey, Romanoff, Saliman, Sanchez, Schultheis, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spence, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, Williams, S., Williams, T., Witwer, Young.

CONCERNING HONORING BILL AND CLAUDIA COLEMAN AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH COGNITIVE
DISABILITIES.

WHEREAS, The term "cognitive disability" includes mental retardation and other developmental disabilities such as autism, severe and persistent mental illness, traumatic brain injury, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, Today, approximately 20 million persons, or 7 percent of the United States population, currently experience significant cognitive disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of these individuals have a severe disability, affecting their ability to see, hear, have speech understood, walk, or perform other basic functions of life; and

WHEREAS, We live in a society heavily dependent on cognitive functioning, sequencing and planning thoughts and actions, interpreting subtle social cues, and manipulating numbers and symbols; and

WHEREAS, Bill and Claudia Coleman have donated \$250 million, the largest gift ever given to an American public university, to the University of Colorado to be used to fund advanced research and development of innovative technologies to enhance the lives of people with cognitive disabilities, such as Down Syndrome and autism; and

WHEREAS, This unprecedented gift is a tribute to the Colemans' generosity and vision, as well as to the University of Colorado's growing reputation for work in developmental disabilities and assistive technology; and

WHEREAS, The Colemans, who have a niece with a cognitive disability, saw a need to create an institute benefitting the cognitively disabled population; and

WHEREAS, The Colemans are devoted to funding research and development for technological advancements for the cognitively disabled; and

WHEREAS, Based on the generous donation from the Colemans, the University of Colorado will establish the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The vision of both the Colemans and University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman is that the Institute will make the University of Colorado the international center of excellence in developing adaptive assistive technologies, based on advanced biomedical and computer science research, for people with cognitive disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities will focus on education, research, and the development of new technology and software programs to improve the quality of life for the cognitively disabled; and

WHEREAS, The Colemans, who have a home in Aspen, Colorado, said the gift would not have been made without University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman's personal commitment to the project and the incredibly strong team of researchers the University has marshaled to support the initiative; and

WHEREAS, The Institute at the University of Colorado, which will include all four campuses of the University, will help bring together many areas of engineering, medical and biomedical, clinical, and brain research necessary to make a significant advance in understanding cognitive disabilities and developing future generations of assistive technology devices; and

WHEREAS, The Institute will bring resources of a four-campus system and ultimately universities and researchers nationwide to enhance the potential of individuals with cognitive disabilities and their families; now, therefore,

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

That it is fitting that the General Assembly honor Bill and Claudia Coleman and the University of Colorado for their efforts in supporting the needs of cognitively disabled persons.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Bill and Claudia Coleman and the University of Colorado.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Doug Dean
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____