



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1017

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Landgraf, Arndt, Becker K., Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Pabon, Winter, Benavidez, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Lebsack, Lee, Liston, Lentine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Pettersen, Rosenthal, Salazar, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Weissman, Wilson, Young; also SENATOR(S) Martinez Humenik and Todd, Grantham, Guzman, Kefalas, Sonnenberg, Zenzinger, Aguilar, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kerr, Merrifield, Moreno, Williams A.

CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN ON CORPORATE BOARDS.

WHEREAS, The Women's Leadership Foundation study, conducted July 15, 2016, which included a census of the 106 Colorado publicly traded companies plus Fortune 1000 companies, found the following:

- (1) Only 11% of the board positions are held by women;
- (2) Only one company has a gender-balanced board;
- (3) 48% of Colorado's companies have no women directors;
- (4) 30% of Colorado's companies have only one woman director;
- (5) Little variation by geography in the percentage of women directors, with Greenwood Village having the highest at 13% and Denver the lowest at 10%;
- (6) Finance, health, and consumer industries have above-average inclusion of women board directors whereas technology, energy, and capital goods industries have less than 5% of board positions filled by women; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Colorado was 24th out of the 25 states that have 10 or more Fortune 1000 companies headquartered in their states, with women holding 14.2% of board seats, compared to Washington and Massachusetts, where women in each state hold 24% of board seats; and

WHEREAS, The Missing Pieces Report, which included a 2016 census of diversity on Fortune 500 corporate boards, found that minority women face even broader disparities, with only 2.2% of board seats held by African American women, 0.81% held by Asian women, and 0.75% held by Latina women; and

WHEREAS, A McKinsey & Company study entitled "Women Matter" showed that companies where women are most strongly represented at board or top-management levels are also the companies that perform the best; companies with three or more women in senior management functions score more highly, on average, on the organizational performance profile than companies with no women at the top; and company performance increases significantly once a certain critical mass is attained: Specifically, when there are at least three women on management committees with an average membership of ten people, performance improves dramatically; and

WHEREAS, An Oklahoma State University study found that board diversity, including gender and ethnicity, is associated with improved financial value and that a significant positive relationship exists between the fraction of women or minorities on the board and the value of the firm; and

WHEREAS, A report entitled "Women Directors on Corporate Boards" found that:

- (1) Gender diversity on corporate boards contributes to more effective corporate governance and to positive governance outcomes through a variety of board processes as well as through individual interactions;

- (2) Women directors contribute to important firm-level outcomes as they play direct roles as leaders and mentors, as well as playing indirect roles as symbols of opportunity for other women, and inspire those women to achieve and stay with their firms; and
- (3) More recognition is needed for the valuable contribution of women directors to the value of a firm; and

WHEREAS, Commencing in 2006, Credit Suisse conducted a six-year global research study of more than 2,000 companies worldwide that showed that women on boards improve business performance by key metrics, including stock performance, as demonstrated by the fact that companies with a market capitalization of more than \$10 billion, whose boards have women, outperformed shares of comparable businesses with all-male boards by 26%; and

WHEREAS, The Credit Suisse report included the following findings:

- (1) There has been a greater correlation between stock performance and the presence of women on a board since the financial crisis in 2008;
- (2) Companies with women on their boards significantly outperformed others when the recession occurred;
- (3) Companies with women on their boards tend to be relatively risk-averse and carry less debt, on average; and
- (4) Net income growth for companies with women on their boards averaged 14% over a six-year period, compared with 10% for those with no women directors; and

WHEREAS, According to a study entitled "Women Directors on Corporate Boards: From Tokenism to Critical Mass" and a report entitled, "Critical Mass on Corporate Boards: Why Three or More Women Enhance Governance", attaining critical mass – going from one or two women directors to at least three women directors – creates an environment where women are no longer seen as outsiders and are able to influence the content and process of board discussions more substantially, and boards of directors need to have at least three women

to enable them to interact and exercise an influence on the working style, processes, and tasks of the board, in turn positively affecting the level of organizational innovation within the firm; and

WHEREAS, Since 2004, a series of Catalyst studies have shown that companies that achieve diversity in their management and on their corporate boards attain better financial results, on average, than other companies; and

WHEREAS, Catalyst found a clear and positive correlation between the percentage of women board directors in the past and the percentage of women corporate officers in the future;

WHEREAS, Catalyst found that women board directors appeared to have a greater effect on increasing the percentage of line positions held by women than they did on staff positions, and line experience is necessary for advancement into chief executive officer and top leadership positions, and Catalyst's annual censuses show that, historically, women are underrepresented in those roles; now, therefore,

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

That we, the Colorado General Assembly, encourage equitable and diverse gender representation on corporate boards and urge that, within the three-year period from January 2018 to December 2020:

- (1) Every publicly held corporation in Colorado with nine or more director seats have a minimum of three women on its board;
- (2) Every publicly held corporation in Colorado with five to eight director seats have a minimum of two women on its board; and
- (3) Every publicly held corporation in Colorado with fewer than five director seats have a minimum of one woman on its board.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper, Lt. Governor Donna Lynne, each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce, and each chamber of commerce in Colorado.

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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