

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1070.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

SJR17-027

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Guzman and Tate,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and Beckman,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-027

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO EXPAND ACCESS TO**
102 **EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR STROKE PATIENTS.**

1 WHEREAS, Strokes are a leading cause of death and long-term
2 disability in the United States, costing more than 130,000 lives annually,
3 including an average of 1,600 victims in Colorado alone; and

4 WHEREAS, A stroke can affect anyone at any age and at any time
5 and can have devastating long-term effects if the victim is not treated
6 immediately; and

7 WHEREAS, A stroke occurs when blood flow to an area of the
8 brain is blocked by a clot or aneurysm, but certain specialized care has
9 been proven to give stroke patients an excellent chance of survival and
10 even full recovery; and

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 WHEREAS, Advancements in medical innovation have produced
2 revolutionary treatments such as the tissue plasminogen activator and
3 neuroendovascular surgery in which highly trained stroke surgeons, in
4 conjunction with neurologists, treat patients suffering from a severe form
5 of ischemic stroke by removing or dissolving the blood clot and ensuring
6 the patients' survival while greatly reducing long-term disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, When emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and
8 other first responders are properly trained to assess stroke severity and
9 then transport stroke patients to neuroendovascular-ready stroke centers
10 capable of performing a mechanical thrombectomy twenty-four hours per
11 day, seven days per week, 365 days per year (24/7/365), stroke patients
12 who undergo neuroendovascular surgery can live up to five years longer
13 than patients who do not receive this specialized treatment, while also
14 saving up to up to \$23,000 over their lifetime from shorter hospital stays
15 and fewer required therapies; and

16 WHEREAS, Only an estimated 10% of those stroke victims who
17 would benefit from this specialized care are currently being properly
18 assessed, triaged, and transported to these specialized 24/7/365
19 neuroendovascular-ready stroke centers to receive this lifesaving
20 treatment; now, therefore,

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

23 That we, the Colorado General Assembly:

24 (1) Hereby recognize and applaud the significant progress being
25 made by Colorado's medical community, including physicians, nurses,
26 EMTs, and hospitals, to embrace new, effective treatments for stroke
27 victims, including specialized care that involves the performance of
28 neuroendovascular surgery;

29 (2) Continue our support of improvements for the emergency
30 medical response time and transport of stroke victims for appropriate
31 medical care because we believe this type of care is an urgent priority and
32 recognize that further efforts are needed to improve these services;

33 (3) Strongly encourage the Department of Public Health and
34 Environment to provide EMTs and first responders with the tools needed

1 for the proper pre-hospital assessment and triage of stroke patients, which
2 may include education about identifying stroke patients who may have an
3 emergent large vessel occlusion that would necessitate transport to
4 24/7/365 neuroendovascular-ready stroke centers and for which
5 geographic considerations can be designated by regional emergency
6 medical services entities; and

7 (4) Encourage EMTs and other first responders to receive the
8 proper education and training for the assessment and triage of stroke
9 patients, along with being familiarized with 24/7/365
10 neuroendovascular-ready stroke centers and the Colorado Community
11 College System to incorporate such education and training curricula into
12 its existing program for the education and training of EMTs and other
13 first responders so that this needed education and training is readily
14 available.

15 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
16 to Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of the
17 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; the nine
18 members of the Colorado Community College System's State Board for
19 Community Colleges and Occupational Education; Governor John
20 Hickenlooper; and Colorado's Congressional delegation.