



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-010

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg and Fields, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lawrence, Arndt, Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lebsack, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 4 AS  
"MISSING PERSONS DAY" IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Each year, hundreds of thousands of families are faced with what President Ronald Reagan called "the stark terror of a unique tragedy"--a missing family member; and

WHEREAS, Every 40 seconds, someone goes missing in America; approximately 2,300 Americans are reported missing every day, and there are as many as 90,000 active missing persons cases in the United States at any given time; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the FBI's National Crime Information Center logged 466,949 reports of missing children; by December 31, 2014, the FBI reported 89,924 active missing persons in the United States, with more than half being juveniles under the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, Children and adults go missing from their families for a number of devastating reasons: they run away or wander and become lost;

they disappear under circumstances indicating that their disappearance may not have been voluntary; or they go missing under suspicious circumstances, indicating that they may be in physical danger or the victims of foul play; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Colorado Governor Bill Owens signed House Bill 02-1083, establishing the AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alert program in Colorado; named after nine-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was abducted and killed in Texas in 1996; the program ensures that local law enforcement agencies can use the Emergency Alert System in Colorado to broadcast information to alert citizens of missing children; and

WHEREAS, Since 1996, AMBER Alerts have successfully recovered 800 children nationally; and

WHEREAS, For all the important work done to recover missing children, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children lists 72 missing Coloradan children from every area of the state; all disappeared from their families when they were children and some have been missing for decades; and

WHEREAS, While too many families grieve and hope for their missing children, others are in search of their missing family members of all ages; and

WHEREAS, According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6 in 10 people with Alzheimer's or dementia will wander and may become lost, a frequent and frightening challenge for their caregivers and families; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed House Bill 07-1005 into law, which expanded the Silver Alert program for senior citizens to include people with developmental disabilities to connect caretakers with law enforcement officials, who can use the reach of the radio and television stations and other media to alert the community; and

WHEREAS, The awareness of citizens, media, and law enforcement, as well as their support, their efforts, and their search for missing persons, must continue; and

WHEREAS, The public plays a critical role in the success of the AMBER and Silver Alert programs; they become the eyes and the ears of law enforcement and can be on the lookout for the missing person; and

WHEREAS, The common misconception that a person must be absent for at least 24 hours before being legally classified as missing is dangerous; when there is evidence of violence or of an unusual absence, it is critical that an investigation begin promptly; and

WHEREAS, New advances in technology must be utilized and made available to locate the missing; and

WHEREAS, The state of Colorado is committed to the safety and well-being of its citizens, both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, The designation of Missing Persons Day in Colorado will firmly embed the importance of missing persons and their families and friends in our state calendar and will raise a level of awareness with other cities and states that have already designated a Missing Persons Day; and

WHEREAS, The designation of Missing Persons Day in Colorado offers a platform to plan events that will connect families with resources to help identify and find their long-term missing loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The designation of Missing Persons Day in Colorado will ensure that the families and friends of the missing know that they are not alone in this tragedy of uncertainties and lack of closure, which leads to extreme suffering and long-lasting effects on the health, finances, and relationships of those left behind; and

WHEREAS, Every missing person is someone's son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister, partner or friend, and every missing person deserves to be searched for and found; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize the epidemic of the missing in America as "The Silent Mass Disaster" and empathize with the ongoing suffering of the families and friends of those

who are missing;

(2) That we recognize the importance of raising awareness of the numbers of people who go missing in Colorado each year;

(3) That we applaud the committed efforts of families, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens who work to locate missing persons;

(4) That we encourage the continued support of worthy initiatives and private and public programs to increase efforts to locate missing persons;

(5) That we hereby designate February 4 of each year as Missing Persons Day and support the goals and ideals of the day; and


(6) That we acknowledge the names, and the families, of the Coloradans who are currently missing: Christopher Abeyta, Edward Abeyta, Luis Acosta, John Aden, Lorraine Aguilar Highpipe, Carmen Aguilera, Jesus Alavarez, Katherine Allen, Angie Almanza, Bryan Ambrose, Ambreen Amjad, Uvaldo Moises Anaya, Juveeta Anderson, Keith Anderson, Isabella Balajonda Annibal, Tiannah Annibal, Pauline Aragon, Britawney Arrellano, Cynthia Atterbury, Joaquin Aviles Silva, Bonny Baker, Brandon Masaki Baker, Victoria Bakhtiari, Alexandra Banda, Linda Barker, Gayla Barnes, Katherine Barnum, Mario Barraza-Murillo, Colleen Barrett, Tracy Bastion, Richard Beebe, Jermaine Bedford, Jr., Stephanie Benitez, Angelaquic Benson, Pamela Bera, David Berger, Gloria Berreth, Casey Berry, Abigail Blagg, Marie Blee, Robert Bockmann, Mark Bonner, Lesley Border, Robert Bowling, Arthur Brandes, William Brennan, Avery Brewington, Lester Bright, Austin Bryant, Edward Bryant, Colleen Burgess, Triniti Burrell, Daniel Burrow, Sherry Bynum, Jose Caldera, Frederick Cain, Jessica Campos-Martinez, Dena Candelario, Kristine Capps, Rocky Carpenter, Thad Carper, Christopher Kit Carson, Gregory Carter, Timothy Case, Autumn Cerenil-Lee, Kenneth Chacon, David Chambers, Breanna Champlain, Michael Chastain, Lorenzo Chivers, Cerae Christian, Aldo Cid Perez, John Cizek, Benjamin Clark, Earl Clark, Randall Clark, Derrick Coleman, Ray Burssie Collins, Christopher Collyer, Martin Conley, Thomas Cook, Randi Coon, Timothy Copley, Patricia Cordova, Shaun Cordova, Emilio Cortez, Jamie Cortez, Trinity Cortez, Charlene Cramer, Aza Crutchfield, Angie Cruz Garces, Valentin Cruz, Julie

Cunningham, Octavia Currie, Maurice Gordon Dametz, Bladimir Damian-Mendez, Heather Damon, Kylanasha Dancer, James Dean, Julia Dearent, Fabian Del Rosario, Nicholas Dolce, Nonnie Dotson, Jennifer Douglas, Rex Douglas, Stephanie Drnovsek, Charles Duke, Denton Dyer, Keith Ebrecht, Caleb Elaayi, Somaya Elaayi, Adam Elkhadiri, Roger Ellison, Bekime Elshani, Maria Emeterio, Beverly England, Eric Espinoza, Mary Esquibel, Pauline Fajardo, Michael Farris, Daniel Faust, Elaine Fauver, J.D. Ferguson, William Ferguson, Alan Figueroa Castrejon, John Fischer, Eugene Fish, Stephanie Fladgard, Blanca Flores, Zachary Flowers, Elijah Forsythe, Jeffrey Fossum, Matthew Foxley, Angelo Frias, Mary Gallegos, Hilga Gallegos, Evaristo Galvan, Ailena Garcia, Thania Garcia, Tiara Garrett, John Gates, Shaida Ghaemi, Donna Goldberg, Phillip Gomez, Annalise Gonzalez, Gustavo Gonzalez Buenrostro, Patricia Gonzalez, Sezja Gonzalez, Jack Gordon, Lucas Whyte Gordon, Sabrina Graham, Alector Gray, Benjamin Franklin Gray, Kimberly Greene-Medina, Sean Gribble, John Gruber, Patricia Gutierrez, Debra Hageman, Norma Halford, Prestlie Hall, Joseph Halpern, James Hampton, Patrick Harris, Christopher Harvey, Kalah Hare, Evan Hawley, Jon Haynes, Mitchell Hein, Paul Hemming, Ronda Henrichsen, Deborah Heriford, Kathleen Hernandez, Martin Hobson, Paul Hodgden, Daniel Holloway, Daphne Hope, Clyde Hubbard, Theresa Hubbard, Samantha Hudnall, Joyce Hunter, Deborah Hyatt, Gabriel Hyde, Sandra Ibeth-Oliveres, Alva Iglesias, Karen Jacobed, Carl Jackson, Lindsey Jackson, Ashley James, Brian James, Brian Jaramillo, Dorothy Jenkins, Lyric Jennings, Sipriano Jiminez, Al Johnson, Ryder Johnson, Rayannah Jones, Benjamin Kalina, Daniel Keller, Rebecca Kellison, Seth Kienzle, James Kilby, Sandra Killian, Walter Kimoto, Tereasa Knuth, Claudia Ko, Tiffany Ko, David Kramer, Ronald Kuetemeier, Summer Larned-Duran, Lori Layman, Maurice Leday, Michael Lee, Cassie Leford, Edith Lehnerz, John Lenihan, Andy Lepley, Jerri Lesser, Patricia Lilly, Vernon Lilly, Maria Lira, Jennifer Lockwood, Jaime Lopez-Arenas, Maria Lopez-Orzuna, Perla Lopez, Laurie Lucas, Juliana Lujan, Ernest Macaulay, Micah Machulski, Charles Madrid, Felipe Maestas, Mardeli Maldonado, Brandi Jo Malonson, Jennifer Marcum, Madai Marentes, James Martin, Juan Martin, Asencion Martinez, Cynthia Martinez, Steven Martinez, Melmy Matos, Jonelle Matthews, Bruce McAllister, Penny McClees, Michael McClure, Sydney Mccollum, Beverly McCool, James McDonald, Oscar McNear, Elizabeth McSweeney, Alejandro Medina, Carla Medina, Crystal Medina, Linda Medrano, Douglas Meer, Mauricio Mejia, Enrique Mendez, Wendy Mendez, Lourdes Mendoza-Morilla,

Yvonne Mestas, Michael Meteer, Richard Meyer, Paul Michals, Thomas Michaud, Evelyn Middleton, Roger Mikkelsen, Elizabeth Miller, Rachelle Miller, Daniel Miranda, Rudolf Moder, Matthew Mooneyham, Richard Morgan, Ann Morris, Lekiesha Morris, Shanti Motry, Anthony Moya, Saidi Muborama, Irma Muneton-Cueto, Robert Myer, Jesus Nava, Anna Navarrette, Pamela Neal, Nanci Nelson, Karla Nevaraz, Robert Newborg, Kara Nichols, Edward Nickelson, Mary Niemi, John Northrup, Geraldine Obregon-Gingles, Lee Ochs, Maria Olea, Liliana Olevera, Anthony Olivari, Denise Oliverson, Jessica Ortiz, Michael Owen, Alex Pacheco, Sandra Patterson, Aarshiya Patil, Jiaa Patil, Theodore Petersen, Tom Phifer, Robert Pillsen-Rahier, Gary Pino, Lea Porter, Diana Portillo, Eric Pracht, Brian Pytlinski, Jorge Quinones, Kimberly Quinones-Rivera, Alejandro Quinones-Zapaico, Beatriz Ramirez, Rosario Ramirez-Lujan, Ambretta Rawhouser, Spencer Reagan, Keith Reinhard, Kristal Reisinger, Kim Remmel, Ivan Renteria, Julian Revolie, Peggy Reynolds, Ian Richardson, Kaitlyn Richardson, Thomas Riha, Alex Rivera, Amparo Rivera, Maria Rivera, Richard Roberts, Kaylie Rogers, Steven Rogers, Georgia Rohner, Raniro Romo, Martha Rye Rooks, Alejandro Rosales, Marco Rosales-Deloisa, Gary Rose, James Rowe, Steven Rowe, Esgar Ruelas, Sandy Ruiz Salazar, Mario Sanchez, Victoria Sanchez, Angelica Sandoval, Kristina Sandoval, Marcella Sandoval, Kelsie Schelling, Teresa Schilt, Teresa Schmidt, Samuel Schrup, Robert Scott, Jose Segura, Keiandre Shelton, Jessica Shoemake, Nancy Shoupp, Roberto Silva-Perez, Nicole Silvers, John Simons, Jewels Sirio, Ronnie Sisneros, Paul Skiba, Sarah Skiba, Thayne Smika, Robert Snider, Guy Solano, Gerald Sollenbarger, Nathanael Sonobe, Rocio Sperry, David Stack, Aaron Standing Bear, Julie Stefanek, Angela Stevens, Lashaya Stine, Daryl Stockert, Joseph Stocks, Leval Storey, Raymond Stubblefield, Jeremy Sullivan, Clinton Sutton, Alexander Talamantes-Bourg, Lori Thiel, Aarone Thompson, Joel Thompson, Nicholle Torrez, Katrina Treacy, Sheri Trujillo, Shane Turner, Ligia Uribe-Ramos, Michelle Uribe-Ramos, Carla Valdez, Michelle Vanek, Oscar Vasquez-Garcia, Nicole Vera-Rico, Rudy Victor, Amadeo Vigil, Caleb Vigil, Christopher Vigil, Robert Vigil, Charlene Voight, Graycen Wagner, Michael Walczak, Darlene Wallace, Larry Watts, Kathy Wilkerson, Dale Williams, Barbara Wilson, Wendy Wisner, Timothy Witt, Andrew Wood, Ronald Wood, William Worley, Eric Xooc Puc, Isaiah Ybarra, D.Z. You Ying Pu, Harold Young, and Leland Zook.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to

Voices of Victims; Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc. (FOHVAMP); Colorado Victims for Justice; the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA); and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.



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