



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-027

BY SENATOR(S) Guzman and Tate, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Todd, Zenzinger, Grantham;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Beckman, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, 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.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Advancements in medical innovation have produced revolutionary treatments such as the tissue plasminogen activator and

neuroendovascular surgery in which highly trained stroke surgeons, in conjunction with neurologists, treat patients suffering from a severe form of ischemic stroke by removing or dissolving the blood clot and ensuring the patients' survival while greatly reducing long-term disabilities; and

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

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

That we, the Colorado General Assembly:

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

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

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

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

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

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; the nine members of the Colorado Community College System's State Board for

Community Colleges and Occupational Education; Governor John Hickenlooper; and Colorado's Congressional delegation.



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