



HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Herod and Salazar, Arndt, Becker K., Benavidez, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lebsock, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Pettersen, Rosenthal, Valdez, Weissman, Winter, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING ENSURING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

WHEREAS, Colorado has always been committed to a quality health care system and to creating policies that meet the health needs of women and families, including affordable reproductive health services; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was the first state to allow safe, legal abortion on a bipartisan basis in 1967; and

WHEREAS, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has stated that "[s]afe, legal abortion is a necessary component of women's health care", and health providers and associations affirm that good access to reproductive health care deeply and positively impacts women's lives and futures; and

WHEREAS, Reproductive health care is both safe and common. More than 90% of women have used contraception, about three in ten women will have an abortion in her lifetime, and more than half of women will have a child at some point in their lives.

WHEREAS, People may disagree with the decision to seek an abortion, but it is a decision that each person should make for themselves with the counsel of their health providers, their families, and their faiths; and

WHEREAS, Rates of maternal mortality are decreasing around the world, but increasing in the United States for women of color who face an alarming and disparate rate of pregnancy complications and maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, Restrictions on the availability of reproductive health care and limits on health coverage, such as policies denying insurance coverage for reproductive health services, have a disparate impact on low-income women and women of color and their families; and

WHEREAS, Obstacles to obtaining the best method of contraception for each person's unique health and life circumstances remain a barrier to many; and

WHEREAS, Low-income women and women of color face a higher rate of unintended pregnancy, so ensuring access to contraception is a critical part of helping to address health disparities in marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, An inability or difficulty to conceive is not only emotionally difficult for people looking to start a family but can be prohibitively expensive, so we must do more to help people seeking to build their families, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, There is a continued need to address inequities in health care access and ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate training of health providers; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, find that:

(1) Colorado continues to be a state where all individuals' health remains a top priority, and Coloradans resist attempts to undermine the right to access reproductive health care;

(2) Access to comprehensive and affordable reproductive health care is critical to ensure that people have the information and services to prevent unintended pregnancies, the support to have healthy pregnancies and become parents when they are ready, and the ability to raise their children in a safe and healthy environment and to be able to care for their families with dignity;

(3) State, county, and city health departments shall promote policies to ensure access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, and eliminate disparities that prevent low-income women and women of color from seeking safe, high-quality care;

(4) Both public and private health insurance should cover the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion;

(5) Facilities and professionals providing reproductive health services shall not be subjected to regulations that do not have a medical benefit and that are more burdensome than those imposed on other facilities or health care professionals that provide medically comparable procedures. Provision of services should be based on the best medical practices as developed by medical experts and supported by medical evidence.

(6) All qualified health care professionals shall be able to provide the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, and have access to appropriate medical training.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump; Vice President Mike Pence; Paul Ryan, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Orrin Hatch,

President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; Governor John W. Hickenlooper; Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; and the members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES