



HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1008

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Herod and Wist, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, 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, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COLORADO LIBRARIES.

WHEREAS, Colorado libraries are a vital and essential public resource that provide free and equal access to educational and recreational material and enrich the lives of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Libraries play a critical role in democracy and community development by promoting civil discourse and empowering citizens to learn, imagine, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, Libraries across Colorado lead the way in developing new and innovative ways of meeting the needs of and uniting the state's increasingly diverse population; and

WHEREAS, Colorado receives \$2.7 million annually from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for library services and technology, which is roughly two-thirds of the State Library's total operational costs; and

WHEREAS, The IMLS is the main funding source for more than 40 different Colorado library services and programs, yet costs less than 49 cents per resident; and

WHEREAS, One such program is the Check Out Colorado State Parks program, now in its second year. The program allows each library to offer two Colorado state park passes and activity backpacks to library patrons. The program was used almost 4,000 times total, or more than 165 times a week in the first six months; and

WHEREAS, Early learning programs, such as One Book 4 Colorado, which gives away 75,000 books each year to 4-year-olds statewide; Storyblocks.org, an online tool to help parents learn how to reinforce early learning skills; and the statewide Summer Reading Program that encourages children, teens, and adults to read and learn for fun, are all funded through the IMLS; and

WHEREAS, The IMLS funds support professional development programs like the Career Online High School, which, when launched this month, will help more than 200 adults in 17 libraries across the state earn high school diplomas and career experience, and the Highly Effective School Library program, which helps schools provide tools for students to develop 21st century skills and meet academic standards; and

WHEREAS, Essential library programs and services, such as the Colorado Talking Book Library, Colorado's historic newspaper collection, the state's institutional libraries, state publications, and many others all receive funding support through the IMLS; and

WHEREAS, This vital funding from the IMLS allows every Coloradan to have access to these programs and ensures that Colorado's rich diversity and culture is represented by libraries across the state, including the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver's historic Five Points neighborhood that is devoted to preserving and showcasing the many contributions of African Americans to Colorado and the West and is one of only five library institutions in the

nation that encompasses a circulating collection, archive, and museum; and the Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez Branch Library, designed specifically to celebrate the diverse and culturally rich community of West Denver; and

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:

(1) Declare our support and appreciation for Colorado libraries and staff; and

(2) Recognize that the invaluable public services and programs provided by Colorado libraries and staff cannot be sustained without the funding support of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Donald Trump, President of the United States; Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States; John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; the Colorado Association of Libraries; the Colorado Department of Education; 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