



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1008

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lee and Sias, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Esgar, Everett, Foote, Garnett, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran;

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

CONCERNING RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS ON VETERANS IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Approximately 1,330,645 service members have been wounded in our nation's conflicts since World War I; and

WHEREAS, The brave men and women who serve our country through the military often place their lives at great risk to ensure our continued freedom as United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sadly, some of these brave service members of the United States armed forces are permanently injured while in service and must undergo extensive rehabilitation in order to rebuild their lives, regain independence, and maximize their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, More than 1.1 million veterans live with a service-connected disability in the United States, with more than 76,000 of those veterans residing here in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, More than 56.7 million individuals in the United States live with a disability, with more than 458,800 of those individuals residing in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Recreational therapy and adaptive sports have been proven to improve physical and mental health, increase independence, and combat dependence on opioids, antidepressants, sleeping aids, and many forms of self-medication; and

WHEREAS, The diverse and awe-inspiring geography of Colorado allows for varied and unique opportunities for recreational therapy and adaptive sports, including but not limited to camping, outdoor climbing, wheelchair rugby, alpine skiing, wheelchair lacrosse, fishing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, wheelchair basketball, hunting, and road biking; and

WHEREAS, The efforts to adapt athletic and recreational activities to those living with disabilities have led to the innovation, creation, and production of adaptive sports equipment, much of that equipment produced by leaders in the industry who are based here in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Many organizations contribute to the adaptive sports programs for the state, including A1 Scuba in partnership with WAVES Project; Adaptive Adventures; Adaptive Sports Association Durango; Adaptive Sports Center Crested Butte; Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center; Challenge Aspen Military Opportunities; Colorado Adaptive Sports Foundation; Disabled Sports USA; Foresight Ski Guides; Harlequin Wheel Chair Rugby; Ignite Adaptive Sports; National Sports Center for the Disabled; Paradox Sports; Project Healing Waters; Rolling Mammoth Wheel Chair Lacrosse; Ski for Light; Sled Hockey; Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports; Team Semper Fi & Team America's Fund;

Telluride Adaptive Sports Program; Vail Veterans Program; and Wilderness on Wheels.

WHEREAS, Adaptive sports programs in Colorado facilitate more than 1,173 veteran-specific camps or events, serving more than 1,311 disabled veterans and 11,764 in the disabled community at large; and

WHEREAS, Adaptive sports programs utilize the good will abundant in Colorado's citizens and create the opportunity for more than 2,760 volunteers to serve nearly 103,991 hours annually; and

WHEREAS, While the positive social contributions of adaptive sports programs are apparent, these organizations are also an economic factor in the state of Colorado, with their combined annual budgets totaling more than \$11.9 million; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

- (1) Recognize the positive social and economic impact that adaptive sports programs have in the state of Colorado;
- (2) Commend the honorable work that adaptive sports programs do in the service of our disabled veterans and the disabled community at large; and
- (3) Encourage our fellow Coloradans to support the work and foster the continued growth of adaptive sports programs in the Centennial State.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Mountain States Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America; CW2 (Ret) David Ortiz, Program Director, Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 1; United Veterans Committee of Colorado; A1 Scuba; Adaptive Adventures; Adaptive Sports Association Durango; Adaptive Sports Center Crested

Butte; Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center; Challenge Aspen Military Opportunities; Colorado Adaptive Sports Foundation; Disabled Sports USA; Foresight Ski Guides; Harlequin Wheel Chair Rugby; Ignite Adaptive Sports; National Sports Center for the Disabled; Paradox Sports; Project Healing Waters; Rolling Mammoth Wheel Chair Lacrosse; Ski for Light; Sled Hockey; Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports; Team Semper Fi & Team America's Fund; Telluride Adaptive Sports Program; Vail Veterans Program; and Wilderness on Wheels.

Crisanta Duran
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