

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0689.01 Jordan Fox x4755

**SJR26-013**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Simpson,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Stewart K.,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-013**

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH ACTION**  
102 **DAY.**

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1 WHEREAS, The youth of Colorado are calling upon Colorado's  
2 elected officials to prioritize policies that support youth mental health and  
3 well-being; and

4 WHEREAS, Colorado is facing a youth mental health crisis, which  
5 has long-term ripple effects on our state's education, public safety,  
6 carceral, and economic systems; and

7 WHEREAS, Colorado ranks 41st in the nation for youth mental  
8 health per the nonprofit Mental Health America; and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1           WHEREAS, Pediatric professionals who support youth found in  
2 the 2023 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey that about 1 in 4 Colorado high  
3 school students reported feeling consistently sad or hopeless; and

4           WHEREAS, Despite the department of public health and  
5 environment's office of suicide prevention finding decreases in Colorado  
6 youth seriously considering suicide and planning suicide attempts in  
7 recent years, our state still sees disproportionately higher rates of suicide  
8 compared to the rest of the country, with suicide being a leading cause of  
9 death among Colorado children under 18; and

10           WHEREAS, Data from the National Library of Medicine shows  
11 that between 10% and 16% of young children (ages 2 to 8) have a  
12 diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder; and

13           WHEREAS, More than 1 in 5 middle school students reported  
14 poor mental health in the 2023 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey; and

15           WHEREAS, Children and youth face stigmas related to mental  
16 health needs that may prevent them from seeking the support and services  
17 they need; and

18           WHEREAS, Research from the Colorado School of Public Health  
19 found that early identification and treatment of mental health needs  
20 improve outcomes for children and families and reduces long-term  
21 societal costs; and

22           WHEREAS, The State Health Professional Shortage Areas map  
23 shows that continued focus is critical to fully integrate primary and  
24 mental health care, as many communities still lack sufficient services to  
25 ensure that children and youth receive the right care at the right time; and

26           WHEREAS, Sustained initiatives are needed to expand the  
27 continuum of care from early preventive support to high-acuity care for  
28 Colorado children and youth with complex mental health needs; and

29           WHEREAS, Pediatric health-care providers play a vital role in

1 identifying, supporting, and treating the mental health needs of children  
2 and youth across Colorado; now, therefore,

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

5 (1) That the General Assembly commits to promoting child and  
6 youth well-being in Colorado through cost-effective investments that  
7 maintain a functional mental health system capable of addressing the  
8 unique needs of children;

9 (2) That the General Assembly supports continued efforts to  
10 strengthen coordination, efficiency, and accessibility within the children's  
11 mental health system;

12 (3) That the General Assembly continues to partner with mental  
13 health providers and professionals, state agencies, local partners,  
14 community organizations, and Colorado children, youth, and families to  
15 prioritize the mental health needs in our state; and

16 (4) The General Assembly recognizes February 26, 2026, as  
17 Youth Mental Health Action Day, where we honor the tireless efforts of  
18 pediatric health-care providers and commit to collaboratively supporting  
19 Colorado kids' mental health and well-being.