

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R26-0689.01 Jordan Fox x4755

SJR26-013

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson, Amabile, Baisley, Ball, Bridges, Bright, Carson, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Frizell, Gonzales J., Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lindstedt, Liston, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Zamora Wilson

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Stewart K.,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-013

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

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
February 26, 2026

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.