

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

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R26-0717.01 Jake Drukman x2291

HJR26-1019

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ricks, Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, English, Espenoza, Froelich, Garcia, Garcia Sander, Gilchrist, Hamrick, Jackson, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Martinez, Mauro, McCluskie, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Sirota, Slauch, Smith, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Woodrow, Zokaie

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-1019

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF CAREGIVING YOUTH DAY.**

1 WHEREAS, Caregiving youth are children and adolescents under
2 eighteen years old who provide primary or secondary care to a family
3 member or loved one of any age who has a chronic illness, frailty of
4 aging, disability, mental health condition, or other health-related need
5 requiring regular assistance; and
6

7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than six million caregiving
8 youth nationwide provide essential care while also balancing school,
9 extracurricular activities, employment, sibling care, and their own
10 physical, emotional, and social development; and

11 WHEREAS, The most recent data from the Healthy Kids Colorado
12 Survey shows that 12.3% of high schoolers and 20.4% of middle
13 schoolers identify as caregivers, with as many as 31.03% of children

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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
February 27, 2026

1 shouldering caregiving responsibilities in some districts; and

2 WHEREAS, Caregiving youth often perform adult-level
3 responsibilities, including personal care, medication management,
4 household tasks, emotional support, and care coordination, frequently
5 without formal recognition or support; and

6 WHEREAS, Caregiving youth are at increased risk of academic
7 challenges, absenteeism, stress, anxiety, substance misuse, and social
8 isolation, yet remain largely underidentified and underserved within
9 education, health care, and social service systems; and

10 WHEREAS, Caregiving youth contribute significantly to the
11 stability and well-being of their families and communities, often at great
12 personal sacrifice and must navigate difficult situations that are no fault
13 of their own; and

14 WHEREAS, Increasing awareness of caregiving youth is essential
15 to promoting early identification, appropriate accommodations,
16 trauma-informed supports, and improved outcomes for these young
17 people; and

18 WHEREAS, February 20, 2026, is designated as Caregiving Youth
19 Day, and Colorado will formally observe Caregiving Youth Day on
20 February 27, 2026, at the Colorado state capitol; now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
22 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*
23

24 (1) That February 20, 2026, is hereby recognized as Caregiving
25 Youth Day in Colorado, with official observance taking place on
26 February 27, 2026;

27 (2) That the General Assembly honors and recognizes caregiving
28 youth across Colorado for their compassion, resilience, and contributions
29 to their families and communities;

30 (3) That the General Assembly honors and recognizes caregiving
31 youth as an underserved and underrecognized population deserving of
32 increased awareness, understanding, and support;

33 (4) That educators, school districts, health-care providers,

1 policymakers, and community organizations are encouraged to identify
2 caregiving youth and consider appropriate accommodations, resources, and
3 trauma-informed supports; and

4 (5) Colorado supports continued research, data collection, and
5 collaborative initiatives to better understand and respond to the needs of
6 caregiving youth.

7 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be
8 transmitted to State Representative Naquetta Ricks, Former State Senator
9 Dafna Michaelson Jenet, Governor of Colorado, the honorable Jared
10 Polis, the Colorado Alliance for Caregiving Youth, the Colorado chapter
11 of the Alzheimer's Association, the Denver Foundation, the American
12 Association of Caregiving Youth, the JEKL Institute, the Colorado
13 Respite Coalition, the Ktone Cares Foundation, YouthRoots, Black
14 Resilience in Colorado, the Next50 Foundation, Aging While Black, the
15 Colorado Trust, the Denver Black Reparations Council, the Colorado
16 Black Health Collaborative, the Center for African American Health,
17 Mahogany Mothers Circle, the Therapist of Color Collaborative, the
18 Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Office of School
19 Safety, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and
20 the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.