

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1011.01 Darren Thornberry

HJR17-1016

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1016

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF RURAL HOSPITALS IN COLORADO, AND,**
102 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DECLARING MARCH 8, 2017, TO BE**
103 **"PROTECTING RURAL HOSPITALS DAY" .**

1 WHEREAS, Nearly half of all Colorado hospitals are in rural
2 areas; and

3 WHEREAS, Vulnerable rural communities depend upon their rural
4 hospital as an important and often the only source of health care services;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals often face workforce shortages,
7 volatile economic conditions, and changing demographics; and

8 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals are typically smaller and have fewer

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 patients and resources, but still provide a broad range of services to meet
2 the needs of their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Many rural Colorado hospitals face unsustainable and
4 uncertain futures as a result of recent budget cuts, leaving their
5 communities at risk for losing access to vital health care services; and

6 WHEREAS, 17 of Colorado's 64 counties have no hospitals; and

7 WHEREAS, Rural hospitals not only provide crucial health care
8 services to their communities but also play a significant role in local
9 economies, generating \$2.28 in economic activity for every \$1 spent; and

10 WHEREAS, Viable options are needed if Colorado's rural
11 communities are going to maintain access to the health care services they
12 need in the long term; now, therefore,

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

15 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

16 (1) Express our appreciation and gratitude to all those Coloradans
17 who dedicate their time and energy to providing access to health care
18 services in rural communities;

19 (2) Recognize the importance of protecting rural hospitals and
20 health care; and

21 (3) Declare March 8, 2017, to be "Protecting Rural Hospitals Day"
22 in Colorado.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
24 to: The members of Colorado's congressional delegation; Gov. John W.
25 Hickenlooper, Jr.; the Colorado Hospital Association; and all of
26 Colorado's rural hospitals.