



## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1016

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Becker J. and Mitsch Bush, Becker K., Buck, Catlin, Esgar, Ginal, Hamner, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lewis, Lontine, McKean, Michaelson Jenet, Navarro, Rankin, Rosenthal, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Weissman, Wilson, Winter, Young, Arndt, Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buckner, Carver, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Landgraf, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Liston, Lundeen, McLachlan, Melton, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Ransom, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams D., Wist, Duran; also SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg, Martinez Humenik, Aguilar, Coram, Fields, Kefalas, Merrifield, Todd, Baumgardner, Cooke, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Tate, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Rural hospitals are typically smaller and have fewer patients and resources, but still provide a broad range of services to meet the needs of their communities; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Viable options are needed if Colorado's rural communities are going to maintain access to the health care services they need in the long term; 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) Express our appreciation and gratitude to all those Coloradans who dedicate their time and energy to providing access to health care services in rural communities;

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

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

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

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Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Kevin J. Grantham  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Effie Ameen  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE