



SENATE RESOLUTION 18-004

BY SENATOR(S) Jahn and Crowder, Cooke, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Holbert, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING ENCOURAGING THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM TO ASSIST ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE OUTDOOR RESTORATION AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO MILITARY VETERANS.

WHEREAS, The members of the Colorado General Assembly and the other people of Colorado are deeply grateful to the men and women who are veterans of the United States armed forces for their great courage and selflessness in defense of our nation's interests and security; and

WHEREAS, After their discharge from service, many veterans require treatment for physical disabilities and mental health issues that are a result of such veterans' service; and

WHEREAS, Participation in outdoor restoration and recreational activities is one of the best ways to help restore the health and well-being of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, Our great state of Colorado affords countless opportunities for veterans and other residents to enjoy outdoor restoration and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, the residents of Colorado elected to create within the state constitution the Great Outdoors Colorado Program to preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open-space heritage; and

WHEREAS, The Great Outdoors Colorado Program includes wildlife program grants; outdoor recreation program grants; a program to identify, acquire, and manage unique open space and natural areas of statewide significance; and a program for grants to match local investments to acquire, develop, and manage open space, parks, and environmental education facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Great Outdoors Colorado Program has existing partnerships with the Colorado Youth Corps Association and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to provide veterans an opportunity to participate in conservation corps programs; and

WHEREAS, Such conservation corps programs allow veterans to remain in service to their communities and to their country; provide veterans valuable vocational training, including wildland firefighting and chainsaw certifications; and offer post-service job-placement assistance to veterans to help them leverage their experience and certifications into economic independence; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that the awarding of competitive grants to organizations that provide veterans the opportunity to participate in outdoor restoration and recreational activities is a permissible expenditure from the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund through its existing partners, including the Colorado Youth Corps Association, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, local governments, and land conservation organizations; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That the Great Outdoors Colorado Program is encouraged to identify and provide assistance to organizations that provide opportunities for veterans to participate in outdoor restoration and recreational activities; and

That individuals and organizations that want to support veterans are encouraged to do so through gifts, grants, and donations to Great Outdoors Colorado, which may use such gifts, grants, and donations to fund competitive grant programs and partnerships that provide veterans

the opportunity to participate in outdoor restoration and recreational activities.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper, Senate President Kevin Grantham, Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Youth Corps Association, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Team Rubicon, Colorado Firecamp, Volunteers of America's Back Home Supportive Services for Veterans Families program, the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, the Green Beret Association, and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado.

Kevin Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE