



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-008

BY SENATOR(S) Marchman and Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Kolker, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Winter F., Zenzinger;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lukens and Willford, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Clifford, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindstedt, Mabrey, Marvin, Mauro, McCluskie, McCormick, Ortiz, Rutinel, Sirota, Story, Titone, Velasco, Vigil, Weissman, Young.

CONCERNING FUNDING TITLE X PROGRAMS IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Enacted in 1970 with strong bipartisan support, Title X of the federal "Public Health Service Act" created the National Family Planning Program, the first and only program to provide to millions of Americans nationwide comprehensive reproductive health-care services, from blood pressure evaluations and important examinations to free and low-cost contraception and counseling; and

WHEREAS, Like the bipartisan support that created this essential program, bipartisan support for family planning has made Colorado a leader in reproductive health; and

WHEREAS, Title X funding helps ensure access to reliable and effective family planning services, including contraception, and helps families and communities throughout the state by allowing Coloradans to choose if, when, and how they start their families; and

WHEREAS, Family planning services reduce rates of unintended pregnancies and maternal and infant mortality and morbidity; providing access to these vital services helps people attain a higher level of education and employment, reducing their economic insecurity, and this

access has been linked to better mental and physical health outcomes for children and families; and

WHEREAS, In Colorado, Black birthing people are two times more likely, and American Indian and Alaska Native birthing people are three times more likely, to die during childbirth or within one year postpartum compared to their white counterparts; equitable access to family planning services is essential for these communities in light of the health risks associated with giving birth due to systemic racism and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's Family Planning Program, which is funded by Title X and run by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, also known as CDPHE, provides comprehensive reproductive health care to Coloradans at 80 clinics across the state and prioritizes individuals who are uninsured and have lower incomes; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal Office on Women's Health, "teen mothers and their infants are at increased risk for lifelong health problems and social and economic challenges"; between 2009 and 2020, the birthrate for females in Colorado between the ages of 15 to 19 fell by 64%: This is important progress that Colorado must continue to build on; and

WHEREAS, Since the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, in a landmark case now known as the Dobbs Decision, communities across the country are experiencing a significant decrease in access to reproductive health care, including family planning services, and Colorado has stepped up to provide timely care for all who need it; and

WHEREAS, However, even before the Dobbs Decision, Title X program funding was not where Colorado needed it to be; available funding only allowed health-care providers across the state to serve fewer than half of the more than 93,000 women in Colorado who CDPHE has estimated need access to its services, and this means that 50,000 Coloradans go without these vital reproductive health services, an estimated \$20 million in unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, The increased need for services in Colorado following

the Dobbs Decision has placed more strain on our reproductive health-care safety net; providers, clinics, and communities statewide are struggling to meet this need, and, without additional funding, access to family planning services will continue to be out of reach for many, especially for people of color and those who live in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, CDPHE estimates that it needs \$404 to serve each family planning client; research has shown that this investment in each client saves millions of dollars in federal programs like Medicaid; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC; and others; and

WHEREAS, By investing additional funding into this proven program, Colorado can continue to improve maternal and infant health, avoid significant costs to Medicaid, maintain the Title X program's success in decreasing unintended pregnancies, and ensure that Coloradans across the state have access to the care they need; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That Colorado declares the state's commitment to adequately funding the Title X program in order to provide comprehensive reproductive care to Coloradans across the state and to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies statewide, leading to better health and economic outcomes for our children, families, communities, and state.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Children's Campaign; the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; COLOR Latina, the Colorado Organization for

Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights; Denver Health; and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES