

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

REVISED

LLS NO. R25-0325.01 Frank Stoner x5498

HJR25-1008

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House Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25-1008

101 **CONCERNING DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AS**
102 **"CO-RESPONDER UNITS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS**
103 **PROFESSIONALS WEEK" IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, The State of Colorado is committed to providing
2 support for those facing behavioral health issues in our community; and

3 WHEREAS, Behavioral health describes the emotions and
4 behaviors that affect an individual's overall well-being, including mental
5 health disorders and substance use; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that
7 more than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness; and

8 WHEREAS, Widespread opioid use continues to grow across the

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
February 10, 2025

HOUSE
Final Reading
January 29, 2025

1 nation and our state, with over 80,000 overdose deaths occurring
2 nationally in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Behavioral health conditions may lead to
4 homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests and have a serious impact on
5 our communities; and

6 WHEREAS, The many issues created by mental illness, substance
7 use, and addiction are community problems, but the burden of their
8 solution must not be shouldered solely by law enforcement, fire services,
9 and emergency medical services staff; and

10 WHEREAS, Many communities have turned to the evidence-based
11 and proven-effective programs called Co-Responder programs; and

12 WHEREAS, The Co-Responder model pairs law enforcement, fire
13 services, and emergency medical services with behavioral health crisis
14 professionals to intervene and respond to behavioral health-related
15 emergencies; and

16 WHEREAS, These units utilize the combined expertise of law
17 enforcement and first responders with behavioral health crisis
18 professionals to de-escalate situations and help link individuals
19 experiencing behavioral health issues to appropriate resources in their
20 communities, including counseling; access to medication;
21 medical-assisted treatment for alcohol and drug dependency; and access
22 to housing, food, basic necessities, and other similar resources; and

23 WHEREAS, Co-Responder programs have expanded across many
24 communities within Colorado, offering both statewide and local support.
25 Co-Responder Units in Colorado have embraced the philosophy of
26 meeting those in need where they are to offer emergency access to
27 treatment, connection to community resources, and ongoing care; and

28 WHEREAS, Colorado Co-Responder Units have responded to
29 thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls for service, provided
30 crisis intervention, conducted important follow-up conversations,
31 developed safety plans, and assisted people in getting connected with the
32 resources they need for healthier living; and

33 WHEREAS, These first responders and behavioral health crisis
34 professionals have shown exceptional commitment, dedication,

1 leadership, and passion to help those in need, reinforcing how vital their
2 work is to the communities of Colorado; now, therefore,

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

5 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
6 along with the Colorado Co-Responder Alliance (COCRA) and the
7 International Co-Responder Alliance (ICRA), hereby dedicate the week
8 of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as Co-Responder Units and
9 Behavioral Health Crisis Professionals Week in Colorado;

10 (2) That we express our appreciation and gratitude for the
11 co-responder units and behavioral health crisis professionals working
12 across Colorado who routinely respond to crisis situations, sometimes
13 putting themselves in harm's way, to ensure the best possible outcomes
14 for their communities; and

15 (3) That we call upon Coloradans to recognize, honor, and give
16 thanks to these amazing professionals for their daily service and great
17 work they do to assist those in need.

18 *Be It Further Resolved,* That two copies of this Joint Resolution
19 be sent to Sergeant Robert L. Cook of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office
20 on behalf of both the Colorado Co-Responder Alliance and the
21 International Co-Responder Alliance.