

2007



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-029

BY SENATOR(S) Williams, Bacon, Boyd, Fitz-Gerald, Groff, Keller, Morse, Romer, Sandoval, Shaffer, Taylor, Tochtrop, and Windels;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Riesberg, Balmer, Benefield, Borodkin, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Casso, Cerbo, Curry, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gallegos, Garcia, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gibbs, Green, Hicks, Hodge, Jahn, Judd, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King, Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Madden, Marostica, Marshall, Massey, May M., McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Mitchell V., Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Rice, Roberts, Romanoff, Rose, Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stafford, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Todd, Vaad, Weissmann, White, and Witwer.

CONCERNING COLORADO SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS.

WHEREAS, In 2000, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 00-171, which allows a parent to relinquish control of a newborn baby to a hospital or a fire station within 72 hours after birth without fear of criminal prosecution as long as the baby is unharmed; and

WHEREAS, Since the enactment of the Colorado safe haven law, more than a dozen newborns have been safely relinquished to hospitals and fire stations and have later been placed in permanent homes; and

WHEREAS, Many parents in Colorado who face the crisis of newborn abandonment are largely unaware of this safe alternative; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of Colorado's safe haven option is the key to saving the lives of newborns and helping their parents in moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, In order to save the lives of these newborns and also give desperate parents a solution, measures are necessary to provide education about and promote the safe haven law; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns works to promote awareness of Colorado's safe haven law; and

WHEREAS, This law provides a positive outcome for all involved: A child's life is saved; a parent is saved from a lifetime of guilt and possible imprisonment; and the hopes of a family waiting to adopt a child are fulfilled; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, express our deep and continuing concern regarding newborn abandonment that frequently results in the death of a newborn;

(2) That we are committed to increasing awareness of the safe haven law within the state of Colorado, particularly among high school and college students; and

(3) That we urge the student and faculty leadership in high schools and colleges in the state to publicize this resolution to the student body, to initiate annual and on-going peer-to-peer efforts to educate fellow students on the safe haven law, to provide counseling to students in need, and to display safe haven signage on school campuses.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the following:

(1) First Lady Jeannie Ritter;

(2) The executive director of the Department of Education, with the encouragement to distribute the Joint Resolution to the students and principals of each high school in the state; and

(3) The executive director of the Commission on Higher Education, with the encouragement to distribute the Joint Resolution to the students and president of each institution of higher education in Colorado.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES