

**PLEASE SUPPORT HB19-1062**

Concerning the Grand Junction Regional Center Campus

**Sponsors:** Rep Janice Rich and Sen Ray Scott

**Background:** In 2016 the legislature passed SB16-178, a bill sponsored by the JBC and CDC, as a step toward vacating the Grand Junction Regional Center (GJRC) campus, a 41-acre property located in Mesa County. One of the sections of that bill required that the Department (of Human Services) vacate the GJRC campus and “shall list the campus for sale.” That complex process has not been completed.

**Issue:** Mesa County is interested in acquiring the GJRC property under an existing law that allows for state property to be transferred to a local government entity or an institution of higher education. However, such a transfer cannot be considered by the State because of the clause in SB16-178 requiring the property to be listed for sale.

**What does HB19-1062 do?**

The bill adds language to statute to allow the Department to EITHER list the property for sale OR enter into a contract to transfer the property to an institution of higher education or to a local government that is interested in its acquisition. The property could still be listed for sale; however, this bill would allow the State to also negotiate the option for a property transfer.

The bill calls for a plan regarding the transfer no later than December 10, 2019.

**What is Mesa County’s Vision/Plan for the GJRC property?**

- ❖ Develop an Early Childhood Resource Center similar the Clayton Early Learning Center located in Denver. The Mesa County Center will address a critical shortage of licensed child care slots by focusing on:
  - Workforce development
  - Quality improvement
  - Business training and support
  - Other technical assistance
- ❖ Provide low-cost land for qualifying economic development projects through the Grand Junction Area Chamber, the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and Industrial Developments, Inc.
- ❖ Utilize railroad spur access for Grand Junction area commercial businesses
- ❖ Build mixed-income housing units with the support of the Grand Junction Housing Authority

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