



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-037

BY SENATOR(S) Foster, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll M., Gibbs, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Isgar, Keller, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Newell, Penry, Romer, Sandoval, Scheffel, Schultheis, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, White, Williams;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Todd, Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Baumgardner, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Marostica, Massey, May, McCann, McFadyen, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Carroll T..

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES PROGRAM AND THE SIXTEEN COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES PROGRAMS IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, The 28th National Court-appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Conference will be held in Denver from April 26 to April 28, 2009, bringing together from across the country over 1,400 men and women who are committed to advocating for children; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 783,000 children in the United States are involved in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, through the national CASA program, 60,000 CASA volunteers in the United States served more than 240,000 child victims of abuse and neglect through 987 CASA and Guardian Ad Litem offices nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Independent studies have shown that children who are assigned a CASA volunteer are much less likely to languish in long-term foster care; and

WHEREAS, The 16 Colorado CASA programs provide nearly 1,100 CASA volunteers to support over 2,900 child victims in the state; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado CASA programs' volunteer commitment on behalf of child victims represents over 85,850 volunteer hours, worth almost \$4.3 million to the citizens of Colorado; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby recognize the National CASA program and the Colorado CASA programs for their support of child victims of abuse and neglect; and

(2) That April 24, 2009, be declared a day of recognition of the National CASA Conference and of all the CASA representatives attending the Conference.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.; Jim Clune, Communications Chief, National CASA; Lori Burkey, Executive Director, Colorado CASA; and the members of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

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Peter C. Groff  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Terrance D. Carroll  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO