

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0831.01 Frank Stoner x5498

HJR26-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lindsay and Bradfield,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker and Frizell,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-1009

101 **CONCERNING VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.**

1 WHEREAS, Colorado is home to almost 350,000 veterans and
2 50,000 uniformed military personnel, and Colorado has one of the highest
3 suicide rates among our veterans in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2022, 178 veterans committed suicide in Colorado,
5 which is significantly higher than the national suicide rate among
6 civilians; and

7 WHEREAS, Veterans honorably serve their country with courage
8 and oftentimes return home with mental health barriers that hinder their
9 transition to the civilian workforce; and

10 WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly has increased access
11 to mental health and addiction treatment and expanded wraparound social

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.

1 services to include employment, education, and housing, which have
2 made positive impacts on numerous veterans' lives and helped make the
3 transition to civilian life more seamless; and

4 WHEREAS, Innovative community response services have
5 demonstrated measurable impacts in saving veterans' lives over the past
6 three years; and

7 WHEREAS, Organizations like Next Chapter and Mt. Carmel
8 Veterans Service Center in Colorado Springs have enrolled more than
9 1,200 veterans in mental health services during the past three years, and
10 no lives have been lost to suicide among the enrollees; now, therefore,

11 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
12 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*
13

14 (1) That we commit to continuing to support our veterans by
15 recognizing the obstacles they face when they return to civilian life. We
16 recommit ourselves to supporting our veterans by expanding services and
17 breaking down stigmas.

18 (2) That we recognize the significant enduring sacrifice our
19 veterans, Gold Star families, and uniformed personnel have made for our
20 freedom and security, and we commit to expanding the community
21 support that demonstrates our persistent gratitude for their service to our
22 way of life; and

23 (3) That we commit to seeking additional solutions to assist our
24 veterans' transition to civilian life.

25 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
26 to the Honorable Governor Jared Polis and the U.S. Department of
27 Veterans Affairs, as well as Next Chapter and Mt. Carmel Veterans
28 Service Center.