

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R17-1176.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

SJR17-037

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

House Committees

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-037

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY AS  
102 "NATIONAL MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK".

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1 WHEREAS, Approximately one in seven women experience  
2 pregnancy-related depression, which can occur at any time during  
3 pregnancy and up to one year postpartum, making this mental health  
4 condition the most common complication of pregnancy; and

5 WHEREAS, By conservative estimates, this daunting statistic  
6 means more than 600,000 women in the U.S. suffer each year from  
7 pregnancy-related depression; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the National Research Council and  
9 Institutes of Medicine, the effects of maternal depression on children are  
10 linked to "serious consequences, most notably impaired mother-infant

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Amended Final Rdg  
May 2, 2017

1 bonding and long-term effects on emotional behavior and cognitive  
2 skills", and children raised by clinically depressed \_\_\_ mothers are at risk  
3 for later mental health problems, social adjustment difficulties, and  
4 difficulties in school, all of which place children raised by depressed  
5 mothers at greater risk for needing early intervention services and may  
6 increase their need for special education services in school; and

7 WHEREAS, One public health study conducted by specialists at  
8 the University of Maryland School of Public Health also found that  
9 women suffering from maternal depression had health care costs that  
10 were 90 percent higher than those of nondepressed women; and

11 WHEREAS, The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force  
12 recommends screening for depression in the general adult population,  
13 including pregnant and postpartum women, and screening should be  
14 implemented with adequate systems in place to ensure accurate diagnosis,  
15 effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up; and

16 WHEREAS, Postpartum Support International recommends  
17 screening for the presence of prenatal or postpartum mood and anxiety  
18 disorders, at the first prenatal visit, at least once in each of the second and  
19 third trimesters, and at a six-week postpartum obstetrical visit, with  
20 repeated screening at six and/or twelve months in OB and primary care  
21 settings, and the American Academy of Pediatrics also recommends  
22 maternal depression screening three times during the child's first year at  
23 well-child visits; and

24 WHEREAS, Pregnant women and mothers in the postpartum  
25 period are not routinely screened for maternal mental health disorders,  
26 though there are recommended screening tools, and this oversight is  
27 largely due to a shortage of and the inability for screening providers to  
28 easily find qualified healthcare providers who can offer necessary and  
29 accessible treatment, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social  
30 workers, and counselors; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2014, Colorado Medicaid began paying providers  
32 to conduct annual depression screenings, and this change allowed for a  
33 mother's postpartum depression screening to be conducted at her child's  
34 well-child visit in the first six months of a child's life and for the  
35 screening to be billed to the child's Medicaid coverage; and

36 WHEREAS, Colorado is one of ten states in the U.S. that allow for

1 this screening to be billed under the child's Medicaid, but unfortunately,  
2 Colorado is the only one of these states that limits this screening to once  
3 per year; and

4 WHEREAS, This year, Colorado's legislative Joint Budget  
5 Committee voted to increase funding for maternal mental health wellness  
6 screenings for mothers who qualify for Medicaid and Colorado's Child  
7 Health Plan Plus, and with the additional funding, these mothers will now  
8 be offered three screenings, instead of one, during the critical first year  
9 after giving birth to their children; now, therefore,

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

12 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby:

13 (1) Acknowledge that while there is much work to be done in  
14 Colorado to ensure that women have access to maternal mental health  
15 services and supports, there are also many committed healthcare  
16 providers, stakeholders, philanthropy and agencies, both locally and  
17 nationally, working to support women struggling with depression during  
18 pregnancy and postpartum; and

19 (2) Designate the first week of May as "National Maternal Mental  
20 Health Awareness Week" to encourage Coloradans to support mothers  
21 and their children, especially those struggling with depression symptoms,  
22 so that they can receive the services and supports needed to help  
23 themselves and their children pursue healthy, meaningful lives.

24 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
25 to the National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health; Colorado  
26 Children's Campaign; Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Director, Postpartum  
27 Support International; Ms. Beverly J. Warner; Ms. Phuonglan Nguyen,  
28 Ms. Caitlin Evard, and Ms. Mandy Bakulski, Coordinators for the  
29 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's  
30 Pregnancy-related Depression and Anxiety Public Awareness Campaign;  
31 Dr. Jennifer Harned Adams, Co-Coordinator, Colorado Postpartum  
32 Support International - Colorado Chapter; Emma Goforth, Maternal and  
33 Child Health Program Coordinator, Tri-County Health Department; Lisa

1 Jansen Thompson, Executive Director, Early Childhood Partnership of  
2 Adams County; Kate Kripke, Postpartum Wellness Center of Boulder;  
3 Ms. Lauren Bardin; American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter;  
4 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Colorado  
5 Section; Colorado Academy of Family Physicians; Colorado Hospital  
6 Association; Healthy Expectations Perinatal Mental Health Program; and  
7 Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program.