

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R17-1176.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

**SJR17-037**

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**Moreno,**

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**Michaelson Jenet,**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-037**

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2017, AS**  
102 **"NATIONAL MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK".**

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1           WHEREAS, Approximately one in eight 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 a National Center for Children in  
9 Poverty Project Thrive Issue Brief, the effects of maternal depression are  
10 linked to "reductions in young children's behavioral, cognitive, and social

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.*

1 and emotional functioning", and children raised by clinically depressed  
2 mothers are at risk for later mental health problems, social adjustment  
3 difficulties, and difficulties in school, all of which place children raised  
4 by depressed mothers at greater risk for needing early intervention  
5 services and may increase their need for special education services in  
6 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 American Academy of Pediatrics recommends  
12 maternal depression screening multiple times during the child's first year  
13 at well-child visits to help diagnose and treat this mental health condition  
14 as quickly as possible to limit its long-term impact on mothers and their  
15 children; and

16 WHEREAS, Pregnant women and mothers in the postpartum  
17 period are not routinely screened for maternal mental health disorders,  
18 though there are recommended screening tools, and this oversight is  
19 largely due to a shortage of and the inability for screening providers to  
20 easily find qualified healthcare providers who can offer necessary  
21 treatment, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and  
22 counselors; and

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

28 WHEREAS, Colorado is one of ten states in the U.S. that allow for  
29 this screening to be billed under the child's Medicaid, but unfortunately,  
30 Colorado is the only one of these states that limits this screening to once  
31 per year; and

32 WHEREAS, This year, Colorado's legislative Joint Budget  
33 Committee voted to increase funding for maternal mental health wellness  
34 screenings for mothers who qualify for Medicaid and Colorado's Child  
35 Health Plan Plus, and with the additional funding, these mothers will now  
36 be offered three screenings, instead of one, during the critical first year

1 after giving birth to their children; now, therefore,

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

4 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby  
5 designate May 1 through May 7, 2017, as "National Maternal Health  
6 Awareness Week" to encourage Coloradans to support mothers,  
7 especially those mothers struggling with depression symptoms, so that  
8 they can receive the services and supports needed to help themselves and  
9 their children pursue healthy, meaningful lives.

10 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
11 to the National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health; Colorado  
12 Children's Campaign; Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Director, Postpartum  
13 Support International; Ms. Beverly J. Warner; Ms. Phuonglan Nguyen,  
14 Ms. Caitlin Evard, and Ms. Mandy Bakulski, Coordinators for the  
15 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's  
16 Pregnancy-related Depression and Anxiety Public Awareness Campaign;  
17 Dr. Jennifer Harned Adams, Co-Coordinator, Colorado Postpartum  
18 Support International - Colorado Chapter; Emma Goforth, Maternal and  
19 Child Health Program Coordinator, Tri-County Health Department; Lisa  
20 Jansen Thompson, Executive Director, Early Childhood Partnership of  
21 Adams County; and Kate Kripke, Postpartum Wellness Center of  
22 Boulder.