

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R14-1011.01 Kate McCarthy x2802

**HJR14-1019**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1019**

101     **CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY**  
102             **MEDICAL SOCIETY AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE MEDICAL**  
103             **RESERVE CORPS OF EL PASO COUNTY.**

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1             WHEREAS, The El Paso County Medical Society Board of  
2 Directors recognized the need to work with the entire community to  
3 integrate all health care professionals into disaster planning for the  
4 community; and

5             WHEREAS, On September 12, 2001, the El Paso County Medical  
6 Society formed the community task force Disaster Response for Health  
7 in El Paso County, comprising more than 20 agencies; and

8             WHEREAS, The El Paso County Medical Society also sought to

*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 ensure the continuation of disaster planning by securing a grant from the  
2 Department of Health and Human Services and formed the Medical  
3 Reserve Corps of El Paso County, chartering it on September 30, 2003,  
4 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization housed in the El Paso County Medical  
5 Society Foundation; and

6 WHEREAS, The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso  
7 County is to prepare nonhospital-based, medically-related personnel to  
8 ensure the physical, medical, mental, and spiritual well-being of the  
9 people and families of El Paso County in the event of a major disaster by  
10 supplementing existing emergency medical services when a disaster  
11 overwhelms those services; and

12 WHEREAS, El Paso County has endured two of the most  
13 devastating fires in Colorado history within a one-year period: The 2012  
14 Waldo Canyon fire, which killed two people, destroyed 347 homes, and  
15 necessitated the evacuation of 32,000 people, and the 2013 Black Forest  
16 fire, which killed two people, destroyed 486 homes, and displaced 41,000  
17 residents; and

18 WHEREAS, The Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County had  
19 prepared for this kind of emergency during a training exercise called "Up  
20 in Smoke", in which participants practiced coordinating with local  
21 emergency responders; and

22 WHEREAS, The Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County  
23 responded within 45 minutes of being activated, for both the Waldo  
24 Canyon fire and the Black Forest fire; and

25 WHEREAS, During and after both fires, volunteers from the  
26 Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County provided medical and  
27 behavioral health support at mass care shelters associated with the City  
28 of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, the El Paso  
29 County Department of Public Health, and the Pikes Peak chapter of the  
30 American Red Cross; and

31 WHEREAS, The Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County  
32 mobilized 88 volunteers who contributed 1,644 hours of service during  
33 the Waldo Canyon fire and mobilized 56 volunteers who contributed 450  
34 hours of service during the Black Forest fire; now, therefore,

35 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*

1     *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

2             That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby:

3             (1) Recognize the forward thinking and planning undertaken by  
4     the El Paso County Medical Society, its board of directors, and its 1,064  
5     physician members, who train and prepare for disaster response; and

6             (2) Express our appreciation and gratitude to the Medical Reserve  
7     Corps of El Paso County and its credentialed and trained volunteers, who  
8     worked in close cooperation with emergency response agencies  
9     throughout El Paso County and contributed more than 2,100 volunteer  
10    hours supporting victims of the Colorado Waldo Canyon fire and the  
11    Black Forest fire.

12            *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
13    to Governor John Hickenlooper, the Mayor and City Council of Colorado  
14    Springs, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, the El Paso  
15    County Sheriff, the Colorado Medical Society, and the El Paso County  
16    Medical Society.