



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1019

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gardner and Joshi, Exum, Landgraf, Lee, Nordberg, Stephens, Waller, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Lawrence, Lebsock, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Sonnenberg, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino;
also SENATOR(S) Cadman and Herpin, Hill, Lambert, Grantham, Rivera.

CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS OF EL PASO COUNTY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

