

**First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R15-1096.01 Joel Moore x4497

HJR15-1023

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-1023

101 **CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL**
102 **DAY OF SILENCE BY BRINGING ATTENTION TO ANTI-LESBIAN,**
103 **GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HARASSMENT FACED BY**
104 **INDIVIDUALS IN SCHOOLS.**

1 WHEREAS, The National Day of Silence is a day in which
2 students take a vow of silence to bring attention to the anti-lesbian, gay,
3 bisexual, and transgender name-calling, bullying, and harassment faced
4 by individuals in schools; and

5 WHEREAS, The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
6 designates the third Friday of every April as the National Day of Silence;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of students at more than 8,000

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 schools have participated in the National Day of Silence in past years; and

2 WHEREAS, The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network's
3 2013 National School Climate Survey illustrates the pervasive harassment
4 and victimization faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
5 students by documenting their experiences within the preceding academic
6 year; and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 75 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
8 transgender students reported being verbally harassed by their peers at
9 school because of their sexual orientation, and more than 55 percent
10 because of their gender expression; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirty-six percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
12 transgender students reported being physically harassed by their peers at
13 school because of their sexual orientation, and over 20 percent because
14 of their gender expression; and

15 WHEREAS, Over 15 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
16 transgender students reported being physically assaulted by their peers at
17 school because of their sexual orientation, and more than 10 percent
18 because of their gender expression; and

19 WHEREAS, Nearly 60 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
20 transgender students reported that they felt unsafe in school, and nearly
21 30 percent reported missing at least one entire school day in the preceding
22 month because of safety concerns; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the National Transgender
24 Discrimination Survey, those who expressed a transgender identity or
25 gender nonconformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of
26 harassment, physical assault, and sexual violence so severe that almost 15
27 percent of those surveyed had to leave school; and

28 WHEREAS, Student academic performance is consequently
29 affected such that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students who
30 experienced high levels of verbal harassment because of their sexual
31 orientation or gender expression report a grade point average nearly a
32 half-grade lower than those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
33 students who experienced low levels of such harassment; and

34 WHEREAS, The presence of supportive staff in schools

1 contributed to a range of positive indicators, including fewer reports of
2 students missing school, fewer reports of students feeling unsafe, greater
3 academic achievement, higher educational aspirations, and a greater sense
4 of school belonging; and

5 WHEREAS, A growing number of cities and local education
6 authorities in Colorado are adopting laws and policies to prohibit
7 name-calling, bullying, harassment, and discrimination against students
8 on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Every child should be guaranteed an education free
11 from name-calling, bullying, harassment, and discrimination, regardless
12 of his or her sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; now,
13 therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
15 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

16 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby
17 recognize April 17, 2015, as the National Day of Silence and support the
18 goals and ideals of the day.

19 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
20 to Governor John Hickenlooper; One Colorado; the Gill Foundation; the
21 GLBT Center of Colorado; the Colorado Human Rights Campaign; the
22 Matthew Shepard Foundation; the Denver LGBT Chamber of Commerce;
23 the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado; PFLAG; Trans Youth Education
24 and Support; Rainbow Alley; the Gender Identity Center; the Colorado
25 Gay Rodeo Association; SAGE of the Rockies; the Four Corners Alliance
26 for Diversity; the Colorado AIDS project; the Boulder County AIDS
27 Project; Inside Out Youth Services; Out Boulder; Colorado West Pride;
28 the Southern Colorado Equality Alliance; LGBT Northeast Colorado;
29 OutServe; the Log Cabin Republicans; and American Veterans for Equal
30 Rights.