

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R24-0973.01 Andrew Webster x2044

SJR24-005

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-005

101 CONCERNING NATIONAL NEWS LITERACY WEEK.

1 WHEREAS, Social media use has exploded over the past two
2 decades, and with that growth it has become easier to post, share, go viral,
3 and even pretend to be a credible news source; and

4 WHEREAS, According to a 2018 Pew survey, twenty percent of
5 all adults in the United States use social media sites as their primary news
6 source, and that percentage rises to thirty-six percent for adults between
7 eighteen and twenty-nine years old; and

8 WHEREAS, This increasing usage, combined with the twenty-four
9 hour news cycle, incentivizes bombastic coverage of events and
10 encourages media companies to sensationalize the news in a constant
11 effort to improve ratings and chase clicks; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, This increasing usage has coincided with decreased
2 readership and funding for traditional media institutions and the robust
3 fact-checking standards, years of editorial expertise, accountability, and
4 layers of filters that traditional media institutions provide; and

5 WHEREAS, Many media messages contribute to public health
6 issues such as obesity, bullying and aggression, low self-esteem,
7 depression, negative body image, risky sexual behavior, and substance
8 abuse, among other problems; and

9 WHEREAS, There are deliberate attempts to mislead and divide
10 us. In 2021, the intelligence community, including the director of national
11 intelligence, the national intelligence council, the federal bureau of
12 investigation, and the department of homeland security, released reports
13 outlining how foreign adversaries meddled in the election. Russia and
14 Iran were found to have spread disinformation about the electoral process,
15 particularly in regard to fraud, mail voting, and results, to decrease
16 Americans' confidence in the system, and Iran spread disinformation to
17 hurt President Trump; and

18 WHEREAS, In this changing news landscape, the burden of
19 evaluating the validity of information is shifting from media outlets to the
20 individual. In order to keep up with these changes, we need to ensure that
21 our citizens are news and media literate and understand how to access,
22 analyze, and evaluate media in all its forms; and

23 WHEREAS, While the increase in misinformation has created
24 significant divisions in our society, Coloradans maintain more in common
25 than not. Our ability to unite and collaborate toward successful solutions
26 for the benefit of all Coloradans depends upon our ability to collectively
27 identify and critically examine facts; now, therefore,

28 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*
29 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
30 *concurring herein:*

31 (1) That media literacy is the ability to interpret and understand
32 media messages; assess the influence of those messages based on
33 thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; create media thoughtfully and
34 conscientiously; and expand the concept of literacy;

35 (2) That today's messages come in many forms, and literacy can
36 no longer refer simply to the ability to read and write;

1 (3) That news literacy does not tell people what to think or push
2 any specific viewpoints. It ensures that people are equipped with the tools
3 they need to think critically about what they see, hear, and read so that
4 they can succeed in the modern world; and

5 (4) That, because of the increasing importance of news literacy,
6 the Colorado General Assembly recognizes the importance of national
7 news media literacy week in an effort to encourage news literacy for all
8 Coloradans.

9 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
10 to the Colorado Press Association, the Colorado Broadcasters
11 Association, the News Literacy Project, and Media Literacy Now.