

Second Regular Session
Sixty-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

LLS NO. R04-1137.01 Rebecca Hausmann

SJR04-038

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Teck, Isgar, and Johnson S.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Berry,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 04-038

101 CONCERNING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC
102 MONITORING DEVICES (TELEHEALTH CARE) IN THE DELIVERY OF
103 HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE HOME.

1 WHEREAS, Many Colorado residents prefer to be treated for and
2 recover from illnesses and chronic diseases in their homes; and

3 WHEREAS, Many Colorado physicians approve of home care,
4 often finding it to be the most cost-efficient method for treatment of
5 certain illnesses and chronic diseases; and

6 WHEREAS, The shortage of nurses and other health professionals
7 is reaching crisis proportions in many areas of Colorado, especially in
8 sparsely populated, rural areas where travel distances dramatically reduce
9 the availability of necessary health care services and increase the costs of
10 providing these services; and

11 WHEREAS, The need for more care givers and health care
12 services is expanding as Colorado's population ages and the number of
13 cases of chronic illness increases; and

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
April 29, 2004

1 WHEREAS, Telehealth care equipment, including electronic
2 monitoring devices, transmits medical data across vast distances in a
3 timely and cost-effective manner, making it possible for the shrinking
4 pool of health professionals to monitor a greater number of patients; and

5 WHEREAS, Telehealth care devices help health care providers
6 monitor patients remotely, allowing providers to intervene in these
7 patients' treatment in a timely, appropriate, and cost-effective manner
8 prior to the need for emergency treatment, thus reducing the total cost of
9 health care and freeing health care resources for others in need; and

10 WHEREAS, Although telehealth care devices have become more
11 effective and less expensive in recent years, government programs and
12 private insurance companies do not currently reimburse home care
13 providers for the direct cost of telehealth care equipment as a cost of
14 treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Home care agencies that provide services to
16 Colorado's citizens and that are trying to extend Colorado's shrinking
17 health care resources, reduce total health care costs, and allow Colorado
18 residents to heal comfortably in their homes cannot afford the initial,
19 unreimbursed investment in telehealth care equipment; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly*
21 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

22 (1) That the General Assembly urges all health care professionals,
23 institutions, and organizations involved in the delivery of health care
24 services in the homes of Colorado residents to explore the potential uses
25 of telehealth care technology and electronic monitoring devices in the
26 early detection and intervention of chronic disease, and in the delivery of
27 cost-effective health care services to both sparsely populated rural areas
28 of Colorado as well as to urban areas in the state;

29 (2) That the General Assembly urges all entities providing direct
30 patient care, especially those providing such care in the home, to seek
31 funding options to extend their use of telehealth care technology in the
32 home; and

33 (3) That the General Assembly urges all entities involved in
34 funding health care and health care research to support research about
35 the use of telehealth care technology and its effectiveness in delivering
36 quality home health care, especially to patients in rural or remote areas.

37 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
38 sent to the members of Colorado's delegation to Congress and to the
39 United States Department of Health and Human Services.