



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 04-038

BY SENATOR(S) Teck, Isgar, Johnson S., Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Sandoval, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Tupa, Veiga, and Windels;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Berry, Boyd, Carroll, Coleman, Frangas, Larson, Madden, Merrifield, Paccione, Romanoff, Smith, Stafford, Tochtrop, Vigil, Weddig, and Williams S..

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

John Andrews  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

---

Lola Spradley  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Mona Heustis  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

---

Judith Rodrigue  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES