

First Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R07-0892.01 Cindi Markwell

HJR07-1031

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kefalas,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Johnson,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-1031

101 CONCERNING COLORADO PEDESTRIAN MONTH, COLORADO WALK TO
102 SCHOOL MONTH, AND COLORADO WALKS WEDNESDAYS.

1 WHEREAS, Walking contributes to improved health, safer streets,
2 stronger communities, and a cleaner natural environment; and

3 WHEREAS, Children walk to and from neighborhood schools
4 during the busiest times of the day when many motorists are rushing to
5 and from work; and

6 WHEREAS, On average in the United States, a pedestrian is killed
7 in a traffic crash every 108 minutes, with children age 15 and younger
8 accounting for 8% of pedestrian fatalities and 28% of all pedestrian
9 injuries in 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, Hundreds of children and adults could be saved each
11 year if every community made pedestrian safety a priority; and

12 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
13 recommends that neighborhoods and local agencies work together to

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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
April 10, 2007

1 identify and create safe routes to school; and

2 WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" are designed and operated to
3 enable safe access for all users, including people who use wheelchairs,
4 have vision impairments, and for older adults and children; and

5 WHEREAS, In the United States, 66% of adults are obese and
6 17% of children are overweight; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 60% of all adults in the United States do
8 not engage in the recommended amount of physical activity, and this lack
9 of regular physical exercise can lead to illness and chronic diseases that
10 result in billions of dollars in health care costs each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Increasing regular moderate physical activity among
12 the more than 88 million inactive Americans over the age of 15 might
13 reduce annual health care costs by as much as \$76.6 billion; and

14 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
15 recommends fighting childhood obesity by encouraging communities to
16 improve the streets, sidewalks, and street-crossing safety of routes to
17 school, develop programs to encourage walking and bicycling to school,
18 and build schools within walking and bicycling distance of the
19 neighborhoods they serve; and

20 WHEREAS, Adults, children, and adolescents can improve their
21 health by engaging in moderate-intensity physical activities, such as
22 walking, regularly during the week; and

23 WHEREAS, Walking is an ideal low-impact exercise that has
24 multiple health benefits such as the ability to reduce the risk of heart
25 disease and cancer, lower total cholesterol, raise healthy HDL cholesterol,
26 lower blood pressure, maintain healthy bones and muscles, stabilize blood
27 sugar, improve immunity, and relieve stress; and

28 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
29 defines a healthy community as "one that embraces the belief that health
30 is more than merely an absence of disease; a healthy community includes
31 those elements that enable people to maintain a high quality of life and
32 productivity"; and

33 WHEREAS, More than one quarter of all daily household car trips
34 are one mile or less and almost half are under five miles; and

35 WHEREAS, The "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency
36 Act of 1991", subsequently reauthorized in 2005 as the "Safe,
37 Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for
38 Users", calls for all states to consider the needs of pedestrians and
39 bicyclists whenever new roads are constructed or existing roads are
40 reconstructed; and

41 WHEREAS, Children, parents, and community leaders throughout
42 the world are joining together to evaluate pedestrian safety in their
43 communities and celebrate International Walk to School Month each

1 October; now, therefore,

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

4 (1) That the month of October shall permanently be designated as
5 "Colorado Pedestrian Month".

6 (2) That the month of October shall permanently be designated as
7 "Colorado Walk to School Month" to coincide with "International Walk
8 to School Month".

9 (3) That every Wednesday throughout the year shall permanently
10 be designated as "Colorado Walks Wednesdays".

11 (4) That the Colorado General Assembly encourages the residents
12 of Colorado to participate in "Colorado Pedestrian Month", "Colorado
13 Walks Wednesdays", and "Colorado Walk to School Month", and to
14 increase their awareness of pedestrian safety while finding ways to
15 increase the number of walking trips into their daily lives.

16 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
17 to Governor Bill Ritter and the executive directors of the Colorado
18 Department of Transportation and Colorado Department of Public Health
19 and Environment.