



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-043

BY SENATOR(S) Hudak, Bacon, Foster, Gibbs, Groff, Heath, Hodge, Newell, Sandoval, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Veiga, Williams, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll M., Harvey, Isgar, Keller, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Penry, Renfroe, Romer, Scheffel, Schultheis, Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, White;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Todd, Merrifield, Baumgardner, Benefield, Casso, Kagan, Kerr A., Massey, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Peniston, Priola, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Summers, Apuan, Balmer, Bradford, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kefalas, Kerr J., Labuda, Liston, Looper, Marostica, May, McFadyen, Nikkel, Pace, Primavera, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Sonnenberg, Soper, Tipton, Vaad, Weissmann, Carroll T.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson was committed to the economic philosophy of free enterprise and still maintained that public education was crucial to preserving a free society and could survive only if held under public control; and

WHEREAS, Horace Mann, Henry Barnard, and other supporters of the "common school movement" in the 19th century argued for the necessity of tax-supported, nondenominational, publicly controlled schools for American children; and

WHEREAS, These early proponents of public education recognized that, if the public did not control the common schools, sectarian interests would be able to impose particular political, economic, or religious doctrines on students, forcing some to withdraw in order to preserve their rights of conscience and thereby denying students access to an education

that would be equal and open to all; and

WHEREAS, The basic concept of publicly controlled, free, universal, and equal education for all children has expanded steadily over the past two hundred years and is serving American children well in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The foundation of freedom and democracy is a strong, effective system of public schools where every child in the United States, kindergarten through twelfth grade, has the opportunity to receive a free education in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, Public schools are the backbone of the nation, providing young people with the tools they need to become productive and involved citizens; and

WHEREAS, A first-rate public education system depends upon the involvement of and cooperation among parents, teachers, children, and communities; and

WHEREAS, In addition to children's families, skillful teachers can open children's minds to new ideas, knowledge, and aspirations and can profoundly influence students long after their school days are over; and

WHEREAS, Teachers often fill a variety of roles in their students' lives, including those of role model, mentor, listener, and motivator; many also spend countless hours outside the classroom directing or supporting a myriad of extracurricular activities and programs that not only enrich a student's school experience but are often the key to unlocking a student's interest and potential; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, 818,443 students were enrolled in Colorado public schools, amounting to more than 90% of all students in the state; and

WHEREAS, One day each year is set aside to honor and acknowledge the lasting contributions that teachers have made to our lives; now, therefore,

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

That we, the Colorado General Assembly, hereby:

(1) Recognize and express our appreciation to Colorado school teachers for their work and dedication and encourage all Coloradans to continue to support those individuals who educate our state's children; and

(2) Recognize the importance of Colorado's system of public schools, which is the bedrock of each community in the state and one of the basic foundations of a free society.

Peter C. Groff
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Terrance D. Carroll
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES