



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-041

BY SENATOR(S) Bacon, Fitz-Gerald, and May R.;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Marostica, Balmer, Benefield, Borodkin,  
Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Casso, Cerbo, Curry,  
Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gallegos, Garcia, Gardner B., Gardner C.,  
Gibbs, Green, Hicks, Hodge, Jahn, Judd, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King,  
Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall,  
Massey, May M., McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield,  
Mitchell V., Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts,  
Romanoff, Rose, Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stafford, Stephens,  
Summers, Swalm, Todd, Vaad, Weissmann, White, and Witwer.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH  
16 AS NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS  
WEEK IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Polycystic kidney disease, or "PKD", is a systemic, genetically inherited disease that causes damage to the kidneys and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal organ systems; and

WHEREAS, PKD is the most prevalent life-threatening genetic disease in the United States with as many as 600,000 people in the United States suffering from PKD; and

WHEREAS, PKD has a devastating impact, in both human and economic terms, on people of all ages and affects equally people of all races, sexes, nationalities, geographic locations, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, PKD, for which there is no cure, is among the leading causes of kidney failure in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The average age by which PKD patients reach kidney failure is 53; and

WHEREAS, As the largest segment of the population of the United States, the "baby boomers", continues to age, thereby requiring additional health care resources, treatment for patients with PKD will cause further strain on our limited dialysis and kidney transplantation resources and on the delivery of health care as a whole in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, End-stage renal disease is one of the fastest growing components of the Medicare budget, and PKD contributes to that cost by an estimated \$2 billion annually for dialysis, kidney transplantation, and related therapies; and

WHEREAS, The severity of the symptoms of PKD and the limited public awareness of the disease causes many patients to live in denial and forego regular visits to their physicians or to avoid following good health management that would avoid more severe complications when kidney failure occurs; and

WHEREAS, People who have chronic, life-threatening diseases such as PKD become depressed at a rate seven times the national average due to their anxiety over pain, suffering, and premature death; and

WHEREAS, The current multilateral approach to PKD research and treatment is a verifiable example of how collaboration, technological innovation, scientific momentum, and public-private partnerships can generate a multitude of far-reaching, positive effects, including therapeutic interventions that directly benefit disease sufferers; billions of dollars in health care cost savings under Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs that deliver dialysis, kidney transplants, immunosuppressant drugs, and related therapies; and the creation of several thousand openings on the kidney transplant waiting list; and

WHEREAS, Improvements in diagnostic technology and the expansion of scientific knowledge about PKD have led to the discovery of the three primary genes that cause the disease and the three primary protein products of the genes and to the understanding of cell structures and signaling pathways that cause cystic growth, which newfound knowledge has led to many encouraging PKD drug trials; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteers nationwide are dedicated to

expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding of PKD, educating patients and their families about the disease to improve their treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

1. Proclaim the week of September 9 through 16 to be "National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week" in Colorado;
2. Seek to raise public awareness and understanding of PKD and its effects on patients and their families;
3. Support additional research into a cure for PKD; and
4. Encourage people across the state to attend the annual Walk for PKD in Washington Park in Denver on Sunday, September 16, 2007, at 9 a.m.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the PKD Foundation and its government relations manager, Dan Lara;

William B. Thorne of End PKD, Inc.; and Walk for PKD coordinator  
Wanda Abel.

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Joan Fitz-Gerald  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Andrew Romanoff  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES