SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE COLORADO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL IN FACILITATING COLLABORATION AMONG STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SYSTEM FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

WHEREAS, In 2008, the General Assembly created the Colorado Autism Commission to identify existing services and gaps in services in Colorado for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders; review services provided by other states and identify promising practices; examine issues affecting the efficient delivery and coordination of services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and report to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Autism Commission found that the long-term needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders are common to all people with developmental disabilities, and the array of services and supports required by people with Autism Spectrum Disorders are also needed by other Coloradans with developmental disabilities; and
WHEREAS, Implementation of the recommendations established by the Colorado Autism Commission would improve the lives of all people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The first recommendation of the Colorado Autism Commission concerns the establishment of a formal and sustainable mechanism to implement plans to integrate, coordinate, strengthen, and expand services for people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, mandated by the federal "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act", Public Law 106-402, is funded and charged to undertake advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer- and family-directed system of services and supports that enable people with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination and to be independent, productive, and integrated into all facets of community life; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council is required, by federal law and state statute, section 27-10.5-203, Colorado Revised Statutes, to include in its membership representatives of the principal state agencies involved in service design, funding, and delivery of services and supports to people with developmental disabilities; the university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research, and service; non-governmental agencies and private non-profit entities concerned with services for people with developmental disabilities; family members; and self-advocates; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, by virtue of its federal and state charge and its membership, is the formal and sustainable mechanism envisioned by the Colorado Autism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In this time of significant budget cuts, revenue shortfalls, and economic uncertainties, it is not possible for the General Assembly to fund a separate entity for the purpose of providing oversight for implementing the recommendations of the Colorado Autism Commission; 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:

(1) That the General Assembly strongly urges and requests that the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council discuss, support, and advance the purposes and recommendations of the report of the Colorado Autism Commission on behalf of all people in Colorado with developmental disabilities and serve as the formal and sustainable mechanism to implement plans to integrate, coordinate, strengthen, and expand services for people with developmental disabilities;

(2) That the General Assembly declares that it is imperative for sound policy development, now more than ever, that all stakeholders, including self-advocates, families, community centered boards, service providers, advocacy organizations, and departments of state government,
work together to find common ground on recommending changes in policy or statutes or both affecting people with developmental disabilities and to ensure the realization of the vision that all Coloradans with developmental disabilities have ready access to the services and supports they need to be safe, educated, healthy, productive, and able to pursue happy and fulfilling lives.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Governor, to the members of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, and to the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services.