

Second Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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SJR08-027

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Groff,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Marshall,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 08-027

101 **CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY FOR PATIENTS IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG**
102 **CARE.**

1 WHEREAS, Positive health care outcomes depend, in part, on the
2 free flow of information between physicians and patients about
3 name-brand and generic medications, if available, and whether switching
4 from one to the other will provide the same or a superior result; and

5 WHEREAS, FDA-approved generic drugs can be safe and
6 effective and often represent an opportunity for much-needed health care
7 cost savings, especially to low-income patients with minimal or no
8 insurance; and

9 WHEREAS, Generic brand medications do not always meet the
10 needs of an individual patient, and patient cases must be handled on a
11 case-by-case basis; and

12 WHEREAS, The patient-health care practitioner relationship relies
13 on confidential, honest, and transparent exchange of information; and

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.

1 WHEREAS, When health care practitioners receive financial
2 incentives to prescribe certain medications and their patients are not
3 informed of those financial incentives, the relationship between the
4 patient and the health care practitioner is strained; and

5 WHEREAS, The longevity, quality of life, and continued health
6 of all people in our society depend on quality health care, which includes
7 access to affordable prescription medicines; and

8 WHEREAS, Patients should receive the best health care regardless
9 of race or income level and should be prescribed the medication that will
10 provide the optimal result for the patient; and

11 WHEREAS, The death rate due to cardiovascular disease among
12 African Americans is highest among all racial and ethnic groups in the
13 United States, and 40% of African American adult men and women have
14 some form of heart disease; and

15 WHEREAS, The cost of health care and prescription medications
16 may be prohibitive for persons of limited means; and

17 WHEREAS, It is in the public’s interest for the state to exercise its
18 powers to provide its citizens with means and methods of improving
19 access to health care and prescription medications; and

20 WHEREAS, Hundreds of patient assistance programs are currently
21 offered by drug manufacturers and other private and public programs to
22 provide help to low-income patients who lack prescription drug coverage;
23 now, therefore,

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

26 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

27 (1) Encourage efforts to ensure transparency in all transactions
28 when physicians or other health care practitioners receive financial
29 compensation for clinical decisions to prescribe certain medications;

30 (2) Support the complete disclosure of information on all
31 prescription medications that are available and the benefits of each option
32 so that a physician and a patient can work together to make decisions
33 about prescription medications;

34 (3) Support efforts to examine the status of access to quality
35 health care, including prescription medications;

36 (4) Strongly support efforts to improve and publicize information
37 about public and private health care and prescription drug programs that
38 improve access for patients in need and include foreign language
39 education and outreach programs, if necessary, to facilitate enrollment in
40 these programs; and

41 (5) Encourage these programs to be crafted in ways that best

1 respond to the health care needs of all the communities within our state.

2 *Be it Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
3 to the Colorado Medical Society, the Pharmaceutical Care Management
4 Association, and the Prescription Project.