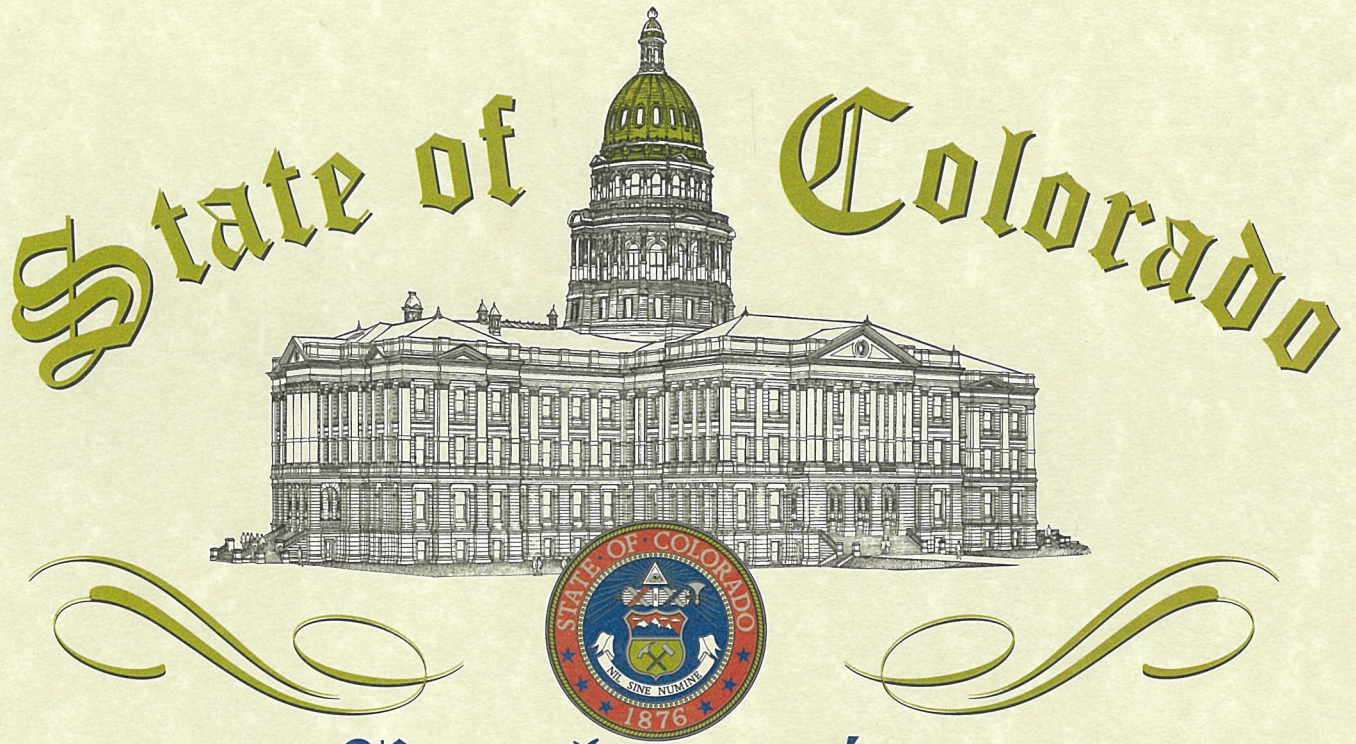




Proclamation

WHEREAS, every Coloradan deserves access to quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, centuries of racism, unconscious bias, and daily microaggressions compound and negatively impact the health of Black communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the intersectionality of race and gender can significantly marginalize and adversely affect quality of life for Black women; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other prestigious institutions acknowledge a causal connection between racial discrimination and disparities in health and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, structural and systemic misogyny denies Black women equitable healthcare; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare endanger Black women's physical, emotional, and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Colorado Health Access Survey revealed that an estimated 148,000 Colorado adults, of whom 52,000 were persons of color, reported "being treated with less respect or receiving worse care than others while seeking healthcare;" and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Colorado Health Access Survey revealed that "race or cultural or ethnic background were the most common reasons why these populations felt they were disrespected when accessing the health care system;" and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado, recognizing the grave harms resulting from racial and ethnic health disparities, established The Office of Health Equity missioned to build partnerships to mobilize community power and transform systems to address health disparities and improve health outcomes for all Coloradans; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Office of Health Equity recognizes that to achieve racial and social justice, systems and policies must be changed to eliminate racism and other injustices as well as address the social determinants of health that have historically kept underrepresented communities from achieving health equity; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that "everyone can play a role in working to prevent pregnancy-related deaths and improving maternal health outcomes";

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2024, as

TOWARDS HEALTH EQUITY: ANSWERING SILENT CRIES FOR HELP DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of April, 2024

Jared Polis

Jared Polis
Governor

