



Healthcare Decisions Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Healthcare Decisions Day* is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, the Medical Decision Treatment Act of 2016 provides the specifics of our advance directives law and offers a model form for patient use; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about one-third of people in Colorado have executed an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public about Advance Directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of *Healthcare Decisions Day* is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, hospices and public health agencies to participate in a State-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Colorado citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Gilpin County and other organizations throughout Colorado have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2019, being recognized as *Healthcare Decisions Day* in Gilpin County, more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions; more citizens will execute Advance Directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, we do hereby recognize April 16, 2019, as **HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY** in Gilpin County, and we call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Adopted this 9th day of April, 2019.

Linda Isenhart
Chair

Gail Watson
Commissioner

Ron Engels
Commissioner