

## **2011 Resolution in Favor of Relationship Recognition and Recognizing LGBT Health Disparities**

WHEREAS, legal relationship recognition includes binding unions such as civil unions or marriage;

WHEREAS, medical and social science literature attests to many health, economic and social benefits conferred by the legal relationship recognition of same-sex couples;

WHEREAS, Colorado's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations have significantly worse mental and physical health indicators than the heterosexual population;

WHEREAS, legal relationship recognition confers numerous financial and legal benefits that improve access to health care;

WHEREAS, legal relationship recognition allows couples a system to better prepare for, respond to and cope with medical emergencies and other health care issues;

WHEREAS, both the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association have affirmed the mental and physical health benefits of legal relationship recognition for same-sex couples and approved resolutions supporting such policies; and the American Bar Association urges state, territorial, and tribal governments to eliminate all of their legal barriers to civil marriage between two persons of the same sex who are eligible to marry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Public Health Association

(1) Recognizes that exclusion from legal relationship recognition contributes to health disparities affecting LGBT populations

(2) Will support policies to provide legal relationship recognition and associated rights and privileges to same-sex couples.