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Joint Resolution on the Foundation for a Strong Utah Future

2025 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck

Chief Sponsof: Nicholeen F. Feck
Senate Sponsor:
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This resolution promotes strengthening households of married parents with children.
Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
 highlights the correlation between percentage of households of married parents with
children and child poverty;
 promotes career and technical programs to increase upward social mobility and financial
stability;
• promotes the Success Sequence to teach students how to create strong family units; and
• encourages policies creating family stability and a strong foundation for Utah children.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
WHEREAS, the bonds between parents and children are fundamental to human
development;
WHEREAS, humans have a psychological and social need for feelings of belonging, love,
and strong familial relationships;
WHEREAS, for most individuals, family provides essential support during challenging
times;
WHEREAS, the United Nations determined that "family is the basic group unit of society,"

27 underscoring the family's pivotal role in societal well-being;

WHEREAS, according to the National Census, in 1980, 77% of children lived with married parents;

WHEREAS, in 2020, nationally, 63% of children lived with married parents;

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31	WHEREAS, there is a correlation between the decline in percentage of children living with
32	married parents and the increase in income inequality, the increase in poverty rates, and the
33	decrease in economic mobility;
34	WHEREAS, Archbridge Institute ranks Utah as the best in the nation for social mobility;
35	WHEREAS, investing in career and technical programs provide Utahns greater access to
36	higher-paying jobs, leading to upward mobility and increased family stability;
37	WHEREAS, according to a 2024 United States Department of Health and Human Services
38	report, 80% of Utah households are headed by two parents, compared to 63% nationally;
39	WHEREAS, according to economist Melissa Kearny, the higher percentage of two-parent
40	households is correlated with low poverty rates, high social mobility, and lower income
41	inequality;
42	WHEREAS, findings from the Marriage and Religion Research Institute indicate that
43	children raised by married parents experience better long-term outcomes, such as higher
44	educational attainment, improved emotional well-being, and greater economic stability
45	compared to those raised in single-parent households;
46	WHEREAS, Utah is committed to creating strong families with children raised by married
47	parents;
48	WHEREAS, Utah promotes the Success Sequence where children are encouraged to
49	complete at least a high school education, obtain full-time work, and marry before having
50	children;
51	WHEREAS, the Success Sequence teaches students the importance of education, financial
52	responsibility, and intact, healthy marriages;
53	WHEREAS, Utah's early-childhood tax credit provides financial relief to families during
54	the early, formative years of a child's life;
55	WHEREAS, Utah is not immune to the national trend of decreasing birthrates and decline
56	of households of married parents with children;
57	WHEREAS, these trends are a cause for concern for the future of Utah children;
58	WHEREAS, many single-parent families find themselves in a less-than-ideal situation
59	when raising children;
60	WHEREAS, single-parent families work diligently and often raise remarkable children
61	despite the hardships they face; and
62	WHEREAS, single-parent families should never be stigmatized:
63	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
64	promotes the adoption of policies that promote and strengthen married, two-parent families.

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65	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah commits to provide
66	children with the greatest opportunities for success in life.
67	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages and
68	promotes two-parent families, strong marriages, and healthy communication.
69	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah promotes career
70	and technical programs, the Success Sequence, and continuing and expanding the
71	early-childhood tax credits to create financial security, upward mobility, and family stability
72	that creates a strong foundation for Utah children.