

**JOINT RESOLUTION ON COMBATING AND  
REDUCING GANG ACTIVITY**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Luz Robles**

House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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**LONG TITLE**

**Committee Note:**

The Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges state and local governments to work together to combat and reduce gang activity.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges state and local governments to take a comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach to combat and reduce gang activity; and
- ▶ ~~Ŝ→~~ [~~expresses support for~~] **acknowledges** ~~←Ŝ~~ sports, arts, academic, targeted counseling, and employment programs ~~Ŝ→~~ **as a means** ~~←Ŝ~~ to counter gang recruitment.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the limitless potential of children, youth, and adults is jeopardized when they fall prey to gang recruitment and intimidation;

WHEREAS, gang activity jeopardizes the civil rights, safety, and well-being of all



28 members of the community, whether individuals are associated with gangs or not;

29 WHEREAS, gangs become chronic and serious problems in communities where key  
30 organizations are inadequately integrated and ~~§~~→ [sufficient resources are] ←~~§~~ not available to target  
31 gang-involved youth;

32 WHEREAS, gang activity should be understood as a complex socioeconomic  
33 phenomena that requires political and educational approaches as well as cultural awareness,  
34 appropriate prevention and intervention, family and community wellness, and gang specialist  
35 and police intervention strategies;

36 WHEREAS, the most effective way to address gang violence is through a  
37 comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach;

38 WHEREAS, gang activity can be reduced in targeted neighborhoods by incorporating a  
39 broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of personal, family, and  
40 community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity;

41 WHEREAS, four key concepts for gang prevention and intervention are identifying the  
42 needs at the individual, family, and community level and addressing those needs with a  
43 coordinated, comprehensive response; conducting an inventory of ~~§~~→ [human and financial] ←~~§~~  
44 resources in the community and creating plans to fill in gaps in services and leveraging existing  
45 resources to support effective gang reduction strategies; applying research-based programs  
46 across appropriate age ranges, risk factor categories, and agency boundaries; and encouraging  
47 coordination and integration of resources at the local, state, and federal levels;

48 WHEREAS, the goal of primary prevention is to focus on the entire population and  
49 high-crime, high-risk communities;

50 WHEREAS, the goal of intervention is to focus on active gang members and their close  
51 associates to provide a combination of services and opportunities, while holding these groups  
52 accountable for their actions;

53 WHEREAS, the goal of suppression is to focus on gang leaders by undertaking  
54 aggressive prosecution efforts; and

55 WHEREAS, local, state, and federal resources should be integrated to incorporate  
56 state-of-the-art practices in prevention, intervention, and suppression to enhance pro-social  
57 influences in the community:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah

59 strongly urges state and local government agencies, through a comprehensive, collaborative,  
60 and communitywide approach, to work to reduce gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by  
61 incorporating a broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of  
62 personal, family, cultural, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and  
63 gang activity.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges communities, civil rights  
65 groups, media, elected officials, gang prevention specialists, educational, cultural, and law  
66 enforcement organizations, the community, and active gang members to work towards  
67 mediating conflict and suppressing gang violence.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature ~~§→~~ [expresses support for]  
68a acknowledges ~~←§~~ sports, arts,  
69 academic, targeted counseling, and employment programs as a means to enhance the future of  
70 the community and counter gang recruitment.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah League  
72 of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah Department of Public Safety,  
73 the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Utah State Office of Education,  
74 and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 11-19-09 8:27 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.J.R. 2 - Joint Resolution on Combating and Reducing Gang Activity**

**Fiscal Note**

2010 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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