

26 None

27

28 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

29 WHEREAS, there have been recent significant advances in neuroscience with increased
30 understanding of how emotional neglect and exposure to serious trauma affect the way children
31 perceive and interact with their world both during childhood and into adulthood;

32 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress disorder and other trauma-related disorders in
33 children and adults can be caused both by exposure to a single severe traumatic incident or by
34 exposure to a cumulative series of serious traumatic events;

35 WHEREAS, such traumatic incidents and events include emotional and physical abuse
36 and neglect, sexual abuse, separation from or loss of a parent **§→ due to divorce or other reasons**
36a **←§**, serious injury or death of a
37 parent, exposure to family discord, domestic violence, parental mental illness, substance abuse,
38 criminal activity in the home, and other traumatic and nonnurturing experiences and
39 environments;

40 WHEREAS, abuse, neglect, and traumatic events compose part of what has been
41 described in the medical literature as "adverse childhood experiences" or "ACEs," and the
42 cumulative potential impact to a child who has a significant history of exposure to neglect and
43 trauma can be calculated using what is called an ACE score;

44 WHEREAS, it is now understood that significant exposure to severe traumatic events
45 as outlined above can negatively affect the neurobiology and anatomy of a child's developing
46 brain and result in a substantially impaired ability to absorb new information, develop healthy
47 coping skills, and adapt to life's challenges as the child becomes locked into a
48 "fight-flight-or-freeze" mode that becomes the child's and future adult's default approach when
49 interacting with the world around them;

50 WHEREAS, children and adults whose brains have been negatively affected by
51 exposure to severe or repeated serious trauma, often experience persistent and sometimes
52 overwhelming dysfunctional emotions of fear, anxiety, depression, hopelessness, and anger,
53 and may exhibit socially inappropriate labile and aggressive behaviors, or may exhibit socially
54 inappropriate emotional detachment and avoidance behaviors;

55 WHEREAS, these negative coping behaviors and dysfunctional emotions limit a
56 person's capacity to form healthy stable relationships, foster social capital, learn from