

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LEGISLATORS
BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK**

2003 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for civic education and designates September 22-26, 2003 as Legislators Back to School Week.

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

WHEREAS, civic education is a vital tool to promote greater understanding of the legislative process and the role of legislators in representative democracy and to build public trust and confidence;

WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence stated, "There is but one method of rendering a republican form of government durable, and that is by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the state by means of proper places and modes of education and this can be done effectively only by the aid of the legislature";

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) established America's Legislators Back to School Week, a national event for legislators across the nation, to impart greater understanding of the necessity for debate, negotiation, and compromise in the legislative process of developing effective public policy, and to engage future voters and leaders of the state in a dialogue about the value of representative democracy;

WHEREAS, Legislators Back to School Week is a bipartisan effort for legislators to visit schools in their districts and meet personally with young constituents to answer questions and listen to concerns on issues affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, Utah legislators benefit from interacting with students, teachers, and administrators by emphasizing the importance of compromise in the difficult process of reconciling competing interests in a diverse society:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Utah, the

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Governor concurring therein, support civic education to promote greater understanding of government and the role of legislators in representative democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor designate September 22-26, 2003 as Legislators Back to School Week and urge all members of the Legislature to visit students in classrooms during that week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the State Board of Education and the executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures.