

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LEGISLATORS

BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK

2004 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Kory M. Holdaway

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for civic education and America's Legislators Back to School Week September 20-24, 2004.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ emphasizes the importance of legislators promoting greater understanding of the legislative process and building public trust and confidence in representative democracy via civic education;
- ▶ recognizes Utah's high level of participation in America's Legislators Back to School Week from students, teachers, and legislators during 2003; and
- ▶ urges increased support for and participation in America's Legislators Back to School Week, September 20-24, 2004.

Special Clauses:

None

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 . . . 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, Utah legislators, students, teachers, and administrators realize the importance of compromise in reconciling competing interests in a diverse society;

WHEREAS, Utah legislators met personally with 16,500 students in 165 schools and 545 classrooms in 2003 to answer questions and listen to concerns on issues affecting students' lives; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) established America's Legislators Back to School Week, a bipartisan 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 in a dialogue about the value of representative democracy:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Utah, the 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 20-24, 2004 as Legislators Back to School Week in Utah 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 be sent to the State Board of Education and the executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures.