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CONTACTS:

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UTAH LEGISLATORS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

SALT LAKE CITY - Legislators will enter classrooms throughout the nation with the following message: Your ideas count! Schools are inviting legislators to teach students the value of public service and being involved in the political process. Competing pressures, debate, negotiation, and compromise--the very fabric of representative democracy--are brought to life when students interact with legislators in mock sessions, simulated hearings, bill drafting, and meaningful discussions.

Representative Margaret Dayton said, "Students have always learned about the legislature. This teaches what it's like to BE a legislator." She credits the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) with increasing awareness of the program and developing classroom materials that teach students about representative democracy.

America's Legislators Back to School Program is now a year-round event allowing schools more flexibility and opportunity to schedule time with a legislator.

Utah is ranked in the top three states nationwide in legislator participation.

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NOTES:

1. More information about Utah's Legislators Back to School Program may be accessed at http://le.utah.gov/lrgc/backtoschool.htm.

2. Shelley Day is Utah's Legislators Back to School Program Coordinator. You can reach her at 801-538-1032.

3. You can view the text of 2005's HCR 6 (re: Utah's Legislators Back to School Program) at http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2005/htmdoc/hbillhtm/HCR006.htm.