

31 WHEREAS, there is a correlation between the decline in percentage of children living with
32 married parents and the increase in income inequality, the increase in poverty rates, and the
33 decrease in economic mobility;

34 WHEREAS, Archbridge Institute ranks Utah as the best in the nation for social mobility;

35 WHEREAS, investing in career and technical programs provide Utahns greater access to
36 higher-paying jobs, leading to upward mobility and increased family stability;

37 WHEREAS, according to a 2024 United States Department of Health and Human Services
38 report, 80% of Utah households are headed by two parents, compared to 63% nationally;

39 WHEREAS, according to economist Melissa Kearny, the higher percentage of two-parent
40 households is correlated with low poverty rates, high social mobility, and lower income
41 inequality;

42 WHEREAS, findings from the Marriage and Religion Research Institute indicate that
43 children raised by married parents experience better long-term outcomes, such as higher
44 educational attainment, improved emotional well-being, and greater economic stability
45 compared to those raised in single-parent households;

46 WHEREAS, Utah is committed to creating strong families with children raised by married
47 parents;

48 WHEREAS, Utah promotes the Success Sequence where children are encouraged to
49 complete at least a high school education, obtain full-time work, and marry before having
50 children;

51 WHEREAS, the Success Sequence teaches students the importance of education, financial
52 responsibility, and intact, healthy marriages;

53 WHEREAS, Utah's early-childhood tax credit provides financial relief to families during
54 the early, formative years of a child's life;

55 WHEREAS, Utah is not immune to the national trend of decreasing birthrates and decline
56 of households of married parents with children;

57 WHEREAS, these trends are a cause for concern for the future of Utah children;

58 WHEREAS, many single-parent families find themselves in a less-than-ideal situation
59 when raising children;

60 WHEREAS, single-parent families work diligently and often raise remarkable children
61 despite the hardships they face; and

62 WHEREAS, single-parent families should never be stigmatized:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
64 promotes the adoption of policies that promote and strengthen married, two-parent families.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah commits to provide
66 children with the greatest opportunities for success in life.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages and
68 promotes two-parent families, strong marriages, and healthy communication.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah promotes career
70 and technical programs, the Success Sequence, and continuing and expanding the
71 early-childhood tax credits to create financial security, upward mobility, and family stability
72 that creates a strong foundation for Utah children.