

HJR012 compared with HJR012S02

16 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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WHEREAS, the bonds between parents and children are fundamental to human development;

WHEREAS, ~~{ humans have a psychological }~~ marriage and stable family relationships provide significant social ~~{ need for feelings of belonging }~~ , ~~{ love }~~ emotional, and strong familial relationships;

WHEREAS, for most individuals, family provides essential support during challenging times;

WHEREAS, the United Nations determined that "family is the basic group unit of society," underscoring the family's pivotal role in societal well-being;

WHEREAS, according to the National Census, in 1980, 77% of children lived with married parents;

WHEREAS, in 2020, nationally, 63% of children lived with married parents;

WHEREAS, there is a correlation between the decline in percentage of children living with married parents and the increase in income inequality, the increase in poverty rates, and the ~~{ decrease in }~~ and economic ~~{ mobility }~~ benefits to children, adults, and communities;

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

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

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

WHEREAS, ~~{ according }~~ strong families contribute to ~~{ economist Melissa Kearny }~~ reduced poverty, ~~{ the higher percentage of two-parent }~~ improved educational households is correlated with low poverty rates, high social mobility, and lower income inequality;

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

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WHEREAS, Utah has historically maintained strong marriage and family formation rates, which have contributed to the state's prosperity and community cohesion;

WHEREAS, recent demographic trends indicate declining marriage rates, delayed family formation, and declining fertility rates both nationally and within Utah;

WHEREAS, many young adults express a desire for marriage and children but report economic, cultural, technological, and social barriers that influence family decisions;

WHEREAS, policymakers benefit from accurate and coordinated information regarding the economic, cultural, and social conditions that affect marriage and family formation;

WHEREAS, strengthening families is a shared public interest that respects pluralism, religious liberty, and individual choice while promoting the well-being of future generations;

WHEREAS, Utah is committed to creating strong families { ~~with children raised by married~~ } ;
parents;

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

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

WHEREAS, many grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families find themselves in a less-than-ideal situation when raising children;

WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families work diligently and often raise remarkable children despite the hardships they face;

WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families should never be stigmatized; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, single-parent families work diligently and often raise remarkable children

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despite the hardships they face; and

WHEREAS, single-parent families should never be stigmatized:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah commits to provide to provide children with the greatest opportunities for success in life by prioritizing intact ~~{families in}~~

families in legislation language, including maintaining the terms mother, father, and parents in ~~{Utah code}~~

Utah code and adding those terms into legislation when possible in order to maintain a state ~~{focus on}~~

focus on families and to direct attention towards creating strong families for Utah's children.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah ~~{promotes career}~~ prioritizes intact

~~{and technical programs}~~ families, promotes the Success Sequence, and continuing and ~~{expanding}~~ increasing the the

early-childhood tax credits for parents and grandparents who struggle to meet the needs of their children and grandchildren, including providing for food and child care, to create

~~{early-childhood tax credits to create}~~ financial security, upward mobility, and family stability that creates a strong foundation for

~~{that creates a strong foundation for}~~ Utah children.

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