

Resolution in Support of the Upward Mobility Act

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jason E. Thompson

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution proclaims that the Legislature of the state of Utah supports the enactment of the Upward Mobility Act by the United States Congress.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- highlights Utah's achievements as the state with the most upward mobility;
- urges the passage and implementation of the Upward Mobility Act (Act) by the United States Congress; and
- volunteers Utah to participate in the pilot program created by the Act.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, according to the Archbridge Institute, Utah is ranked number one in the nation for upward mobility;

WHEREAS, upward mobility allows an individual to escape poverty and achieve financial independence;

WHEREAS, anti-poverty programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance are primarily administered by the federal government of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, these programs assist low income individuals and families to raise them from poverty through food, housing, and economic assistance;

WHEREAS, inflexible income requirements to qualify for assistance creates perceived or real "benefits cliffs" where an increase in income creates a significant loss in assistance;

31 WHEREAS, benefits cliffs harm individuals receiving benefits and do not reduce poverty;
32 WHEREAS, Representative Blake Moore of Utah introduced the Upward Mobility Act of
33 2026 (Act) to the 119th Congress of the United States;

34 WHEREAS, the Act is a bipartisan initiative aimed at reforming federal anti-poverty
35 programs and eliminating benefits cliffs;

36 WHEREAS, the Act, if passed, will create a five-year pilot program for up to five states to
37 receive an "Upward Mobility Grant" to administer the pilot program;

38 WHEREAS, Upward Mobility Grants combine funding from 10 anti-poverty programs into
39 a single block grant;

40 WHEREAS, states participating in the pilot program can request waivers from the federal
41 government to design programs that promote self-sufficiency;

42 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration
43 for Children and Families will oversee the pilot program and select state proposals that
44 demonstrate potential in removing benefits cliffs and aiding individuals in achieving financial
45 independence; and

46 WHEREAS, participating in the pilot program includes rigorous independent evaluations to
47 measure the impact on employment, earnings, and poverty reduction:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah supports
49 the passage and implementation of Representative Blake Moore's Upward Mobility Act of
50 2026.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that the state's reputation for
52 upward mobility makes Utah an obvious choice to participate in the pilot program created by
53 the Upward Mobility Act.