

Jason E. Thompson proposes the following substitute bill:

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, programs intending to reduce poverty, 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 are meant to assist low income individuals and families to raise them from poverty through food, housing, and economic assistance;

WHEREAS, inflexible income requirements for assistance create perceived or real

30 "benefits cliffs" where an increase in income can create a significant loss in assistance;

31 WHEREAS, benefits cliffs can harm individuals receiving benefits and prevent the
32 reduction of poverty;

33 WHEREAS, Representative Blake Moore of Utah introduced the Upward Mobility Act of
34 2026 (Act) to the 119th Congress of the United States;

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah supports
50 the passage and implementation of Representative Blake Moore's Upward Mobility Act of
51 2026.

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