

# -HB 66-

## What It Does



### Training for Law Enforcement

HB66 requires law enforcement officers to receive training on identifying and responding to ritual abuse, ensuring they understand its impact on victims.

This is critical because law enforcement and agencies serving victims currently lack training in understanding what ritual abuse is and its long-lasting impact.



### Aggravating Factor for Ritual Abuse Against Children

The bill creates an aggravating factor for offenses involving victims under 18 when the abuse occurs during a ritual, increasing penalties for perpetrators serving as a needed deterrent for those who perpetrate this abuse.



### Addresses Gap in Current Law

Current laws on child sexual abuse do not address the depth and detail of ritual abuse. Because ritual abuse is not codified, efforts to stop the abuse, keep perpetrators accountable, and support victims are limited. It defines "ritual abuse" as the use of gestures or words from religious, cultural, or social events to coerce, manipulate, and control a child for acts of sexual abuse and torture. HB66 seeks to fill this gap by providing training and legal measures to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

# **SUPPORT FOR HB0066**

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## **CHILD RITUAL ABUSE**

### **ORGANIZATION SUPPORT**

- Victim Services Commission - unanimous support
- Saprea
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah
- Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA)
- Utah Domestic Violence Coalition (UDVC)
- Utah County Sheriff's Office
- Utah Sheriffs Association
- Journey of Hope, Inc. (supports survivors of sexual violence and all trauma)
- RLC Family Foundation (funds abuse prevention and victim advocacy resources)

### **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**

- Kimberli Raya Koen, Survivor, President and Founder of The Healing Center for Complex Trauma, Organizer of the Restoring Freedom Summit (Ritual Abuse)
- Rachelle Ruthorford, Mrs. World America, 2023-2024, Mrs. Fitness America, 2023-current, CEO of Kids on the Move
- Christina Boggess, Utah State Office of Education Board Member
- Dr. Susan R. Madsen, Utah Women & Leadership Project
- Deondra Brown