

RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR CAUSES AND ISSUES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES; URGING UTAH'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO EXAMINE CURRICULUM, POLICIES, AND SCHEDULES BASED ON THEIR IMPACT ON THE FAMILY; AND EXPRESSING A DETERMINATION TO EVALUATE LEGISLATION OR RULE AS TO ITS EFFECT ON FAMILIES.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS the family is the basic unit of society and should be supported, strengthened, and protected by governments, churches, schools, and all other organizations, both public and private;

WHEREAS it is the family that unites Americans across religious, ethnic, class, and political boundaries;

WHEREAS rather than intrude upon a family and its responsibilities, government should preserve the environment within society that allows families to thrive;

WHEREAS the family is the time honored core of a stable society;

WHEREAS families need love, spirituality, morality, responsibility, accountability, and opportunity in order to function properly;

WHEREAS today many families are denied these values or principles, and are threatened and weakened by conditions prevalent in society;

WHEREAS the splintering of the family often leads youth to seek the acceptance traditionally found in the family from other groups, such as gangs;

WHEREAS our most corrosive social problems, including crime, poverty, immorality, gangs, drug use, violence, civil disobedience, illiteracy, disrespect, and intolerance can often be driven by the disintegration of the family unit;

WHEREAS in many instances government programs intended to alleviate these problems not only often fall short of their goal, but also result in a heavy tax burden on families, which takes away resources and time that could be better used to care for their needs and thereby lessen these problems;

WHEREAS the local, state, and national government should carefully scrutinize their laws and regulations to determine whether they strengthen and sustain families, or weaken, threaten, and denigrate them;

WHEREAS Utah's public schools should evaluate their curriculum, policies, and schedules to determine how they impact the family; and

WHEREAS parents, more than governments, schools, or any other entity, are best suited to raise and nurture their children:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, support and champion those causes and issues that strengthen families through their emphasis on the responsibility, accountability, opportunity, rights, and freedoms families need to function as they should.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge government agencies to work to ensure that their laws and regulations protect and strengthen families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge local, state, and

national governments to evaluate their laws and regulations to determine whether they strengthen and sustain families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah's public schools to evaluate curriculum, policies, and schedules based on their impact on families and make adjustments, where needed, to strengthen and sustain families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Utah Board of Education, each municipality in the state of Utah, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.