

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO
END HOMELESSNESS**

2004 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David Clark

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature expresses support for President Bush's Samaritan Initiative and recognizes the need for efforts to end homelessness in the state of Utah.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ expresses support for President Bush's Samaritan Initiative to end chronic homelessness;
- ▶ recognizes that funding for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund and the Olene Walker Housing Trust Fund is critical to efforts to end homelessness; and
- ▶ expresses support for the State Homeless Coordinating Committee and its efforts to facilitate interagency collaboration to end homelessness.

Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, on any given night between 2,500 and 4,300 people in Utah experience homelessness;

WHEREAS, these homeless families and individuals are forced to live in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, under viaducts, in their cars, along rivers, in the woods and in caves, or doubled up involuntarily in others' homes;

WHEREAS, over the course of the 2001-02 school year, 8,500 school-aged children in Utah experienced homelessness;

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WHEREAS, approximately 250 to 430 of Utah's homeless are chronically homeless, meaning that they are individuals who have been homeless for at least a year and have a disabling physical condition or mental illness;

WHEREAS, 35% of homeless people work but do not earn enough to afford housing, child care, and transportation;

WHEREAS, 16% of Utah's homeless are veterans;

WHEREAS, well-documented and effective solutions to end chronic homelessness exist and could be implemented in Utah with adequate funding; and

WHEREAS, President Bush has launched an initiative, referred to as the Samaritan Initiative, to end chronic homelessness:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah expresses support for President Bush's initiative to end chronic homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that ending chronic homelessness is only a first step and supports efforts to end homelessness for families and individuals who are temporarily homeless.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that funding for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund and the Olene Walker Housing Trust Fund is critical to meet the goal of ending all homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the State Homeless Coordinating Committee and its efforts to facilitate interagency collaboration to end homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the State Homeless Coordinating Committee and to President George W. Bush.