

1                                   **JOINT RESOLUTION RAISING PUBLIC**  
2                                   **AWARENESS OF VITAL ROLE OF**  
3                                   **PARAEDUCATORS**

4                                   2006 GENERAL SESSION  
5                                   STATE OF UTAH

6                                   **Chief Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove**

7                                   Senate Sponsor: Ed Mayne

8   Cosponsor:                                   Sheryl L. Allen

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10 **LONG TITLE**

11 **General Description:**

12                   This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the citizens of Utah to increase their  
13 awareness of the contributions paraeducators make in educating children in public  
14 schools.

15 **Highlighted Provisions:**

16                   This resolution:  
17                   ▸ urges the citizens of Utah to increase their awareness of the contributions made by  
18 paraeducators to the quality of children's educational experiences in the state's  
19 public schools.

20 **Special Clauses:**

21                   None

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

24                   WHEREAS, for the more than 40 years since they were first introduced into the nation's  
25 schools, the roles of "teacher aides" have become more complex and demanding;

26                   WHEREAS, these aides have become technicians who are more aptly described as  
27 paraeducators;

28                   WHEREAS, under the direction of teachers, paraeducators assist with the delivery, to  
29 both learners and their parents, of instructional and other direct services designed to support



30 instructional plans and educational goals;

31 WHEREAS, more than 7,000 paraeducators serve in Utah's school districts and charter  
32 schools, providing invaluable services and support to students in Utah's public schools;

33 WHEREAS, these paraeducators display a high degree of professionalism and spend  
34 considerable time and energy in career development;

35 WHEREAS, paraeducators work as members of teams in the classroom where the  
36 teacher has the ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the classroom  
37 education program, the education programs of individual students, and for the evaluation of  
38 those programs and student progress;

39 WHEREAS, paraeducators work under the ultimate supervision of the school principal  
40 and are assigned to work under the direction of a teacher or team of teachers;

41 WHEREAS, while they perform clerical tasks, prepare materials, and monitor learners  
42 in nonacademic settings, paraeducators perform many other tasks under the supervision of  
43 teachers and, in some cases, related services professionals;

44 WHEREAS, paraeducators in early childhood, elementary, middle, and secondary  
45 classrooms and programs engage individual and small groups of learners in instructional  
46 activities developed by teachers, carry out behavior management and disciplinary plans  
47 developed by teachers, and assist teachers with functional and other assessment activities;

48 WHEREAS, paraeducators can also document and provide objective information about  
49 learner performance that enables teachers to plan and modify curriculum and learning activities  
50 for individuals, assist teachers with organizing learning activities and maintaining supportive  
51 environments, and assist teachers with involving parents or other caregivers in their child's  
52 education;

53 WHEREAS, recent legislation requires paraprofessionals to be qualified to perform  
54 their jobs and requires local districts to provide adequate training and supervision of their  
55 paraeducators;

56 WHEREAS, by serving jointly with teachers, paraeducators enhance the continuity and  
57 quality of services for many students in Utah schools; and

58           WHEREAS, the services provided by paraeducators, though not widely understood or  
59 recognized, are a key element in the success of Utah's education efforts:

60           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
61 urges the citizens of Utah to increase their awareness of the critical role paraeducators play in  
62 the education of Utah school children.

63           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of Utah's  
64 school districts, charter schools, the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals, members  
65 of the Utah Education Coalition and education community, the Utah Parent Teacher  
66 Association, the Utah State Board of Education, and the Utah State Office of Education.