

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
9 **LONG TITLE**

10 **General Description:**

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

14 **Highlighted Provisions:**

15 This resolution:

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

19 **Special Clauses:**

20 None

21
22 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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

25 WHEREAS, these aides have become technicians who are more aptly described as
26 paraeducators, just as their counterparts in law and medicine are designated as paralegals and
27 paramedics;



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 40 school districts,
32 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 40 school districts, the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals, members of the Utah
65 Education Coalition, the Utah Parent Teacher Association, the Utah State Board of Education,
66 and the Utah State Office of Education.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-16-06 1:43 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel