

1                                   **RESOLUTION PROMOTING LEGISLATORS**

2                                   **BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

3                                   2008 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Margaret Dayton**

6                                   House Sponsor: Gregory H. Hughes

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8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10           This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for  
11 civic education and Utah's Legislators Back to School Program.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This resolution:

14           ▶ emphasizes the importance of legislators promoting greater understanding of the  
15 legislative process and building public trust and confidence in representative  
16 democracy through civic education;

17           ▶ recognizes Utah's high level of participation in the National Conference of State  
18 Legislatures' Legislators Back to School Program from students, teachers, and  
19 legislators during 2007; and

20           ▶ urges continued support for and participation in Utah's Legislators Back to School  
21 Program during the 2008-09 school year.

22 **Special Clauses:**

23           None

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

26           WHEREAS, civic education is a vital tool to promote greater understanding of the  
27 legislative process and the role of legislators in representative democracy and to build public



28 trust and confidence;

29 WHEREAS, Utah legislators acknowledge the Constitution of the United States as the  
30 supreme law of the land, which establishes a republican form of government and provides the  
31 principle for self-government, government by the people through the democratic process;

32 WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence stated,  
33 "There is but one method of rendering a republican form of government . . . by disseminating  
34 the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the state by means of proper places and  
35 modes of education . . . and this can be done effectively only by the aid of the legislature";

36 WHEREAS, Utah legislators, students, teachers, and administrators realize the  
37 importance of compromise in reconciling competing interests in a diverse society;

38 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures established America's  
39 Legislators Back to School Program, a bipartisan program for legislators across the nation to  
40 impart greater understanding of the necessity for debate, negotiation, and compromise in the  
41 legislative process of developing effective public policy, to engage future voters and leaders in  
42 a dialogue about the value of representative democracy, and to adapt the program to each  
43 individual state;

44 WHEREAS, this civic education program helps to instill the values of representative  
45 democracy, strengthen the democratic process, and encourage students to play a responsible  
46 role in their government; and

47 WHEREAS, Utah legislators ranked second in the nation for participation in this  
48 program during the 2006-07 school year and have ranked in the top three since the program's  
49 inception:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
51 Governor concurring therein, emphasize and urge support of civic education to promote greater  
52 understanding of government and the role of legislators in representative democracy.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize Utah's  
54 Legislators Back to School Program and urge each member of the Legislature to visit students  
55 in classrooms during the school year.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the State Board  
57 of Education and the executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 6-28-07 2:10 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.C.R. 2 - Resolution Promoting Legislators Back to School Program**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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