

**JOINT RESOLUTION ON COMBATING AND  
REDUCING GANG ACTIVITY**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Luz Robles**

House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges state and local governments to work together to reduce gang activity.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ urges state and local governments to take a comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach to combat and reduce gang activity.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, the limitless potential of children, youth, and adults is jeopardized when they fall prey to gang recruitment and intimidation;

WHEREAS, gang activity jeopardizes the civil rights, safety, and well-being of all members of the community, whether individuals are associated with gangs or not;

WHEREAS, gangs become chronic and serious problems in communities where key organizations are inadequately integrated and sufficient resources are not available to target gang-involved youth;

WHEREAS, gang activity should be understood as a complex socioeconomic



28 phenomena that requires political and educational approaches as well as cultural awareness,  
29 appropriate prevention and intervention, family and community wellness, and gang specialist  
30 and police intervention strategies;

31 WHEREAS, the most effective way to address gang violence is through a  
32 comprehensive, collaborative, and communitywide approach;

33 WHEREAS, gang activity can be reduced in targeted neighborhoods by incorporating a  
34 broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of personal, family, and  
35 community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity;

36 WHEREAS, four key concepts for gang prevention and intervention are identifying the  
37 needs at the individual, family, and community level and address those needs with a  
38 coordinated, comprehensive response; conducting an inventory of human and financial  
39 resources in the community and creating plans to fill in gaps in services and leverage existing  
40 resources to support effective gang reduction strategies; applying research-based programs  
41 across appropriate age ranges, risk factor categories, and agency boundaries; and encouraging  
42 coordination and integration of resources at the local, state, and federal levels;

43 WHEREAS, the goal of primary prevention is to focus on the entire population in  
44 high-crime, high-risk communities;

45 WHEREAS, the goal of intervention is to focus on active gang members and their close  
46 associates to provide a combination of services and opportunities, while holding these groups  
47 accountable for their actions;

48 WHEREAS, the goal of suppression is to focus on gang leaders by undertaking  
49 aggressive prosecution efforts; and

50 WHEREAS, local, state, and federal resources should be integrated to incorporate  
51 state-of-the-art practices in prevention, intervention, and suppression to enhance pro-social  
52 influences in the community;

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
54 strongly urges state and local government agencies, through a comprehensive, collaborative,  
55 and communitywide approach, work to reduce gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by  
56 incorporating a broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of  
57 personal, family, cultural, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and  
58 gang activity.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges communities, civil rights  
60 groups, media, elected officials, gang prevention specialists, educational, cultural, and law  
61 enforcement organizations, the community, and active gang members to work toward  
62 mediating conflict and suppressing gang violence.

63           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses support for sports, arts,  
64 academic, targeted counseling, and employment programs as a means to enhance the future of  
65 the community and counter gang recruitment.

66           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah League  
67 of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah Department of Public Safety,  
68 the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Utah State Office of Education,  
69 and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of **2-12-09 9:07 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.J.R. 21 - Joint Resolution on Combating and Reducing Gang Activity**

**Fiscal Note**

2009 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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