

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

3                                   2010 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Luz Robles**

6                                   House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

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

12   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This resolution:

- 14           ▶ urges state and local governments to take a comprehensive, collaborative, and  
15 communitywide approach to combat and reduce gang activity; and
- 16           ▶ acknowledges sports, arts, academic, targeted counseling, and employment  
17 programs as a means to counter gang recruitment.

18   **Special Clauses:**

19           None

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

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

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

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

28           WHEREAS, gang activity should be understood as a complex socioeconomic  
29 phenomena that requires political and educational approaches as well as cultural awareness,

30 appropriate prevention and intervention, family and community wellness, and gang specialist  
31 and police intervention strategies;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 personal, family, cultural, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and  
59 gang activity.

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

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

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