

**Representative Carl Wimmer** proposes the following substitute bill:

**FATHERS DO MATTER CONCURRENT**

**RESOLUTION**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gene Davis**

House Sponsor: David Litvack

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges fathers to accept and fulfill their responsibility to family.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

► urges fathers to connect with their children and fulfill their social and economic obligations.

**Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

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

WHEREAS, the effects of father-absent households have contributed to poverty, maternal and child health risks, incarceration, crime, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, lack of education, and childhood obesity;

WHEREAS, father-absent households create a substantial drain on societal and government resources;

WHEREAS, in Utah, many organizations have not been educated on the significant role



26 fathers play in resolving social issues in communities throughout the state;

27 WHEREAS, many fathers have not grasped how they, as role models, impact their  
28 children;

29 WHEREAS, to the extent fathers struggle to accept and fulfill their responsibilities to  
30 family members, communities in the state are at risk;

31 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative reports that the  
32 federal government spends \$100,000,000,000 every year to support father-absent households;

33 WHEREAS, the actual amount may be higher because the study did not measure the  
34 impact of related costs like the criminal justice system, which is overwhelmed by men who  
35 grew up in father-absent households;

36 WHEREAS, any serious effort to address poverty, child abuse, crime and recidivism,  
37 drug abuse, teen pregnancy, or lack of education must make restoring fatherhood an integral  
38 part of the solution;

39 WHEREAS, a father-absent household is not a single issue, and its social and economic  
40 consequences are felt across society;

41 WHEREAS, 25,000,000 men, or one out of three, grow up in homes where their  
42 biological father does not reside;

43 WHEREAS, these children are significantly more likely to live in poverty, drop out of  
44 school, and engage in risky behaviors; and

45 WHEREAS, government agencies and nonprofit organizations should understand the  
46 dynamics of responsible fatherhood programs to most effectively address the impact  
47 father-absent households have on families and communities:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
49 Governor concurring therein, urge all fathers to accept and fulfill their responsibilities to family  
50 members by connecting with their children and fulfilling their social and economic obligations.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah House and  
52 Senate blogs, The Coalition of Religious Communities, and the Salt Lake Interfaith  
53 Roundtable.