

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE**  
2                   **AND NEED FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR**  
3                   **INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY**

4                                   2019 GENERAL SESSION

5                                   STATE OF UTAH

6                                   **Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

7                                   House Sponsor: Paul Ray

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9                   **LONG TITLE**

10                   **General Description:**

11                   This concurrent resolution addresses the value of center-based employment for  
12 individuals with a disability.

13                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14                   This concurrent resolution:

15                   ▶ addresses the value of and need for an individual with a disability to have options  
16 among the settings in which the individual chooses to receive services and  
17 employment opportunities;

18                   ▶ urges the state of Utah to preserve the option for an individual with a disability to  
19 choose the setting in which the individual receives services and employment  
20 opportunities, including those in a center-based setting; and

21                   ▶ urges the Congress of the United States to request that the Centers for Medicare and  
22 Medicaid Services reconsider changes concerning funding for participation in a  
23 program offered by a center-based employment provider.

24                   **Special Clauses:**

25                   None

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



28 WHEREAS, center-based employment providers are private nonprofit, state, or local  
29 government entities that provide employment and other opportunities to an individual with a  
30 disability;

31 WHEREAS, an individual with a disability learns job skills, earns wages, interacts with  
32 peers, and gains a sense of accomplishment at a center-based employment program;

33 WHEREAS, an individual with a disability accesses a variety of community-based  
34 vocational and personal options at a center-based employment program;

35 WHEREAS, the goal of a center-based employment program is to prepare an individual  
36 with a disability for competitive employment;

37 WHEREAS, by providing services unique to the individual and the local community in  
38 which the individual is located, and by working in partnership with business and industry,  
39 center-based employment programs remain an integral part of local economies;

40 WHEREAS, many Utah residents with a disability choose to participate in a  
41 center-based employment program;

42 WHEREAS, parents, guardians, and caregivers of individuals with a disability support  
43 and attest to the benefits of center-based employment programs and the employment provided  
44 by center-based employment programs;

45 WHEREAS, some individuals with a disability may not be well-suited for competitive  
46 employment, but could succeed in a center-based employment program;

47 WHEREAS, a center-based employment program provides a safety net for an  
48 individual with a disability who is not successful in competitive employment;

49 WHEREAS, there is growing concern that regulations adopted by the Centers for  
50 Medicare and Medicaid Services significantly change the home and community-based services  
51 Medicaid waiver program and will reduce opportunities for an individual with a disability to  
52 participate in a center-based employment program;

53 WHEREAS, an individual with a disability should be free to choose the setting in  
54 which the individual receives services or employment, including a program or employment by  
55 a center-based employment provider in Utah;

56 WHEREAS, there is a place for both integrated and center-based employment services  
57 to meet the needs of all individuals with a disability in Utah; and

58 WHEREAS, the inability to receive federal funds is not a sufficient reason to

59 discontinue state funding for center-based employment programs:

60           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
61 Governor concurring therein, urges that the option for individuals with disabilities to choose  
62 the settings in which they receive services and employment opportunities, including those in  
63 center-based settings, be preserved.

64           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
65 concurring therein, urges the Congress of the United States to request that the Centers for  
66 Medicare and Medicaid Services reconsider the changes concerning funding for participation in  
67 a program offered by a center-based employment provider and permit an individual with a  
68 disability to freely choose the setting in which the individual wishes to receive employment  
69 services.

70           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's  
71 congressional delegation and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.