CONCURRENT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
CHINESE PEOPLE REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS
OUTBREAK
2020 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:  Jacob L. Anderegg
House Sponsor:   Eric K. Hutchings

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This concurrent resolution expresses support for the Chinese people regarding the coronavirus outbreak.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
- acknowledges the serious public health risk of COVID-19 acute respiratory disease (coronavirus);
- expresses solidarity and support for the Chinese people's efforts to contain the coronavirus;
- conveys sympathy for those affected with coronavirus around the world;
- urges Utahns to remain calm and adhere to normal flu-season precautions;
- calls upon the international community not to impose unnecessary restrictions that interfere with international travel and trade;
- encourages close collaboration between the public and private sectors to develop the diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines to help bring the outbreak under control;
- urges Utah public institutions to remain calm, take precautions to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases, and focus efforts towards people who exhibit symptoms; and
urges donations of protective equipment to assist the Chinese people in battling the virus.

Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, Utah and the People's Republic of China (China) enjoy a friendly relationship and strong economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties;

WHEREAS, Utah is enriched by the presence of Chinese residents, educators, students, and enterprises;

WHEREAS, the unique, 14-year legislative relationship between Utah and Liaoning, China is the only one of its kind between the United States and China, and is responsible for opening a significant channel for people, businesses, and education organizations to conduct exchanges and cooperate;

WHEREAS, cooperation between Utah and China is evidenced by the following:

• China is a top trading partner for Utah;

• many Utah companies have business operations in China;

• Utah leads the nation in K-12 Chinese language study; and

• in 2019, Utah hosted Chinese government and business leaders during the Golden Spike Anniversary, which highlighted the contributions of Chinese and other immigrants in Utah’s history;

WHEREAS, a global health threat such as COVID-19 acute respiratory disease (coronavirus) demands an empathetic global response in order to preserve the health, happiness, and prosperity of individuals within the global community;

WHEREAS, the state of Utah is closely monitoring the situation, engaging with United States and Chinese governments and health partners to respond to the health threat in China, and will issue further information and guidance as necessary;

WHEREAS, as global citizens, Utahns should take measures to assist those in need and work proactively to preserve global health and the stability of the global economy, which align with Utah values of industriousness, empathy, volunteerism, and cooperation;

WHEREAS, global health and the global economy are inextricably linked as evidenced
by the World Bank estimate that 90% of economic losses during any pandemic outbreak arise from the uncoordinated and irrational efforts of the public to avoid infection;

WHEREAS, global health emergencies can cause fear among populations, and people's fear can be dispelled by rational, clear analysis and taking health advice from trusted information sources;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the risk of a coronavirus infection to Utahns and the general American public is presently considered low;

WHEREAS, Utahns should remain calm, use common sense, and adhere to normal flu-season precautions such as frequently washing hands, covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or coughing or sneezing into one's elbow rather than hands;

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised United States citizens not to panic about the coronavirus and has warned against stereotyping people of Asian descent;

WHEREAS, in many places around the world, misinformation, false rumors, and media coverage about the coronavirus have stoked discriminatory sentiment toward Chinese and Asian people; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization says there currently is a "window of opportunity" to prevent the spread of the coronavirus by focusing prevention efforts near the epicenter in China, and Utah organizations such as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Intermountain Healthcare, and others have generously donated to China significant amounts of protective gear to assist in containing the virus:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, expresses solidarity and support for the Chinese people's efforts to contain the coronavirus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor convey sympathy for those affected around the world and urge Utahns to remain calm and adhere to normal flu-season precautions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor concur with the World Health Organization and call upon the international community not to impose restrictions relating to the coronavirus that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade and raise fear and stigma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, where measures that restrict travel and trade have
been implemented, the Legislature and the Governor urge that their duration be short, proportionate to the actual public health risks, and regularly be reconsidered as the situation evolves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and the Governor encourage close collaboration between the public and private sectors to develop the diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines to help bring the coronavirus outbreak under control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah government, medical facilities, school districts, and other public institutions to remain calm, take precautions to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases, and focus efforts towards people who exhibit symptoms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah companies, faith-based groups, families, and individuals to donate protective equipment and funds through the proper channels to assist the Chinese people in battling the virus.