CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND OTHERS

2020 THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This resolution acknowledges and expresses gratitude for the efforts of individuals and organizations responding to the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
- acknowledges and expresses gratitude on behalf of the Legislature and the Governor for the efforts of individuals and organizations to combat and respond to the pandemic caused by the spread of COVID-19, including:
  - healthcare workers;
  - certain state employees;
  - information technology workers;
  - other workers providing essential services; and
  - religious and spiritual leaders and members.

Special Clauses:
None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:
WHEREAS, the pandemic caused by the spread of Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") has caused a significant disruption to healthcare systems, education systems, businesses, economies, and the every-day life of individuals throughout the state and around the world;
WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 threatens the health and lives of individuals throughout the state and around the world;

WHEREAS, healthcare workers and caregivers work tirelessly to carefully and effectively treat victims of COVID-19, in addition to those with other ailments and sicknesses, while risking personal exposure to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, hospitals and health clinics have altered their business models and postponed various elective procedures to enable essential care for the critically ill, new parents and babies, and other individuals in need of emergency care, in a controlled environment while also enabling care of victims of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities take precautions against COVID-19 infiltrating their facilities at great expense and inconvenience to the facility, while providing support and care for patients who are isolated from in-person visits from family, friends, and loved ones;

WHEREAS, home health, hospice, and personal care employees continue to provide care for their patients and clients while also providing, and exploring new ways to provide, alternative healthcare options for those who are not able to access outpatient healthcare services due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, assisted living facilities, group homes, and independent senior living communities carefully balance the need to protect their residents from exposure to COVID-19 with providing their residents with safe access to healthcare workers, while providing support, care, and activities for residents who have been isolated from family, friends, and loved ones;

WHEREAS, non-profit professionals and healthcare associations have contributed countless hours working together and in conjunction with the Utah Department of Health, among others, to support the needs of their members, patients, and clients;

WHEREAS, scientists and medical experts work to find and develop a cure for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, other businesses, entities, and private citizens have supported healthcare needs by distributing information, providing meals, providing various administrative assistance, and manufacturing homemade face masks and isolation gowns;
WHEREAS, employees of the Utah Department of Health work tirelessly to find solutions to the changing and novel healthcare landscape facing the state as a result of COVID-19 to assure safe and controlled access to healthcare and to support healthcare providers, while providing critical information and comprehensive data regarding the welfare of Utah's citizens;

WHEREAS, employees of the Utah Department of Workforce Services continue to provide necessary support and information to Utah citizens who have lost employment or wages during the uncertain economic challenges caused by the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, employees of the Utah Department of Public Safety and the Utah Department of Corrections navigate unprecedented challenges related to preventing exposure to and the spread of COVID-19, while assuring safety for Utah citizens;

WHEREAS, workers in the field of information technology effectively create and provide access to critical communication technologies that have made remote access to healthcare and work possible, which allows certain organizations and businesses to continue to function, needs of certain customers and citizens to be met, and certain healthcare visits and procedures to take place;

WHEREAS, grocery and food service workers continue to provide necessary products to the citizens of Utah at risk of personal exposure to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, emergency response workers, including firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and law enforcement officers continue to provide necessary services and protect their communities at risk of personal exposure to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, other essential workers across the state continue to provide necessary services and products to citizens and entities at risk of personal exposure to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, religious and spiritual leaders and members, along with other individuals, have joined together in prayer and fasting efforts during these uncertain and challenging times in support of:

- healthcare workers throughout the world;
- a full economic recovery;
WHEREAS, the efforts and sacrifices of the aforementioned individuals and organizations is deserving of acknowledgment and appreciation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah and the Governor express great appreciation and gratitude for the aforementioned individuals and organizations for their personal sacrifices and efforts to combat and respond to the unprecedented challenges facing the state and the world as a result of the spread of COVID-19.