CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE GRADUATING
CLASS OF 2020

2020 FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore
House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This resolution recognizes the students graduating from high school and institutions of higher education in 2020.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
- recognizes students expected to graduate from high school, colleges, and universities in 2020 during unusual circumstances; and
- acknowledges the creative and meaningful efforts of schools and families to mark the achievement of Utah's 2020 graduates.

Special Clauses:
None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:
WHEREAS, a student's senior year of high school is the culmination of more than a decade of hard work;
WHEREAS, approximately 42,000 to 43,000 students were expected to graduate from public high schools in Utah's 2020 graduating class during unusual circumstances;
WHEREAS, high school seniors typically have an opportunity to participate in cultural milestones during their senior year, including senior prom and high school graduation;
WHEREAS, at the time of school closures in the 2019-2020 school year, high school students, including seniors, were participating in a variety of extracurricular activities, with over 28,000 students participating in athletics -- such as baseball, track and field, and lacrosse -- and over 27,000 students participating in music, theatre, and debate;

WHEREAS, because of school closures in the 2019-2020 school year due to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Utah's high school graduating class of 2020 had a senior year unlike any other and missed out on opportunities that prior generations have not;

WHEREAS, during the spring and summer of 2020, thousands of students were expected to graduate from Utah's eight public colleges and universities and eight technical colleges, and thousands more students were expected to graduate from private colleges and universities in the state;

WHEREAS, students graduating from colleges and universities have invested considerable time and resources to obtain certificates and degrees from these institutions, and many students worked to achieve this laudable goal with significant personal and familial sacrifices;

WHEREAS, Utah's high school seniors and students graduating from the state's public and private colleges and universities have demonstrated resilience and determination while turning the challenges of the 2019-2020 school year into opportunities; and

WHEREAS, state leaders have confidence that students in Utah's 2020 high school graduating class and graduates from Utah's public and private colleges and universities will use what they have learned in their education as they continue in their path to future leadership:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, hereby congratulates every student from the 2020 graduating class of every high school in Utah and every student graduating from every college and university in Utah for this significant achievement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor hereby praise public and private schools for their efforts to recognize 2020 graduates through thoughtful and resourceful activities and graduation ceremonies, acknowledging the time and work teachers and school leaders invested in making these activities meaningful and memorable for graduates and their families.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor hereby acknowledge
the outstanding creativity of the families and friends of Utah's high school and college
graduates to mark these students' achievements.