

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020**

2020 FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

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**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

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*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;



28 WHEREAS, at the time of school closures in the 2019-2020 school year, high school  
29 students, including seniors, were participating in a variety of extracurricular activities, with  
30 over 28,000 students participating in athletics -- such as baseball, track and field, and lacrosse  
31 -- and over 27,000 students participating in music, theatre, and debate;

32 WHEREAS, because of school closures in the 2019-2020 school year due to the spread  
33 of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Utah's high school graduating class of  
34 2020 had a senior year unlike any other and missed out on opportunities that prior generations  
35 have not;

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

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

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

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

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

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor hereby praise public  
55 and private schools for their efforts to recognize 2020 graduates through thoughtful and  
56 resourceful activities and graduation ceremonies, acknowledging the time and work teachers  
57 and school leaders invested in making these activities meaningful and memorable for graduates  
58 and their families.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor hereby acknowledge  
60 the outstanding creativity of the families and friends of Utah's high school and college  
61 graduates to mark these students' achievements.