

**JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING DISCUSSION ON  
THE EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution encourages greater study and open discussion about the effects and prevalence of child sexual abuse.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ acknowledges the widespread nature of child sexual abuse globally, nationally, and at the state level;
- ▶ explains the impact of child sexual abuse on victims and communities;
- ▶ encourages discussion about the effects and prevalence of child sexual abuse; and
- ▶ encourages greater study and discussion about ways in which the government, communities, and citizens of Utah can prevent child sexual abuse and support those affected.

**Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network reports that nationally, one in nine girls and one in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult;



28 WHEREAS, in Utah, it is estimated that one in 10 children will be sexually abused  
29 before they turn 18;

30 WHEREAS, a report on rape in Utah published in 2007 by the Utah Commission on  
31 Criminal and Juvenile Justice found that almost 80% of females who had been sexually  
32 assaulted reported that their first sexual assault occurred before their 18th birthday;

33 WHEREAS, victims of child sexual abuse are about four times more likely to develop  
34 symptoms of drug abuse and experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as adults;

35 WHEREAS, victims of child sexual abuse are about three times more likely to  
36 experience a major depressive episode as adults;

37 WHEREAS, victims of child sexual abuse are also likely to experience other health  
38 problems, including eating disorders, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, fearfulness,  
39 social withdrawal, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts;

40 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the ramifications of child sexual abuse cost the state of  
41 Utah approximately \$1 billion annually;

42 WHEREAS, advocacy organizations such as Prevent Child Abuse America have  
43 indicated that raising awareness of the unacceptability of child sexual abuse is an important  
44 step in prevention; and

45 WHEREAS, experts have also urged that stopping child sexual abuse is all citizens'  
46 responsibility and requires the public to be properly educated on the true nature of abuse:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
48 encourages open and frank discussion about the effects and prevalence of child sexual abuse.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ways in which the government, communities,  
50 and citizens of Utah can prevent child sexual abuse and best support those affected should be  
51 further studied and discussed.