

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTING THE**
2 **IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS OF ADULTS**
3 **FOR CHILD SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY**

4 2022 GENERAL SESSION

5 STATE OF UTAH

6 **Chief Sponsor: Elizabeth Weight**

7 Senate Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

8
9 **LONG TITLE**

10 **General Description:**

11 This resolution highlights the importance of a supportive network of adults for child
12 success and encourages Utahns to build networks to support and create opportunities
13 for children in the state.

14 **Highlighted Provisions:**

15 This resolution:

- 16 ▶ recognizes the benefits of strong community networks;
- 17 ▶ recognizes the benefits of a supportive network of adults on a child's development,
18 health, and resiliency;
- 19 ▶ recognizes that a supportive network of adults does not replace the child's parent;
- 20 ▶ expresses support for teachers, clergy, coaches, and other community members and
21 organizations who make up supportive networks of adults and diminish the harmful
22 effects of adverse childhood experiences; and
- 23 ▶ encourages individual and community involvement in building supportive networks
24 of adults.

25 **Special Clauses:**

26 None

27



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

29 WHEREAS, a strong community collaborates to solve issues and fosters a sense of
30 togetherness through shared cultural experiences and reinforcement of belonging;

31 WHEREAS, Utah consistently ranks high amongst states for charitable giving and
32 Utahns characteristically illustrate the benefit of strengthening community networks;

33 WHEREAS, research shows that a child facing significant adversity can develop
34 resilience and positive lifelong skills through supportive relationships with a network of adults
35 outside of the home, including teachers, clergy, coaches, and other community members;

36 WHEREAS, a child's relationship with a supportive network of adults is proven to help
37 a child cope with, and eradicate factors shown to exacerbate, intergenerational poverty, trauma,
38 and adverse childhood experiences, including abuse, neglect, substance use or mental illness in
39 the home, domestic violence, incarceration, and divorce;

40 WHEREAS, a supportive network of adults reinforces to a child that the child is strong,
41 capable, and necessary and assist the child to build social and emotional skills necessary for
42 development;

43 WHEREAS, a child's developmental years have a tremendous impact on future
44 academic achievement, economic success, and long-term health in adolescence and adulthood;

45 WHEREAS, a child's supportive network of adults does not replace the role of a parent,
46 but strengthens and enriches that role:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature, the Governor
48 concurring therein, supports the teachers, clergy, coaches, and community members who make
49 up Utah's supportive networks of adults throughout the state.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utahns to
51 continue to be involved in the community and to be the cultivators of vibrancy and resilience
52 for the next generations of Utahns.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge continued
54 engagement with and support for the people and organizations that work to break the cycle of
55 poverty and develop strategies to diminish the harmful effects of traumatic experiences that
56 many children in the state face.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage
58 individuals, organizations, municipalities, and state leaders to continue engaging with,

59 participating in, and building supportive networks of adults that provide acknowledgment and
60 encouragement to children and create opportunities for all Utah's children to reach full
61 potential.