JOINT RESOLUTION PROMOTING THE 3RS FRAMEWORK
OF RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITY, AND RESPECT IN
CLASSROOMS
2022 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens
House Sponsor: ____________

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This resolution highlights the 3Rs framework, which is inspired by principles of the
religion clauses of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution,
acknowledges the role of public school educators in preparing students for their civic
responsibilities, and encourages the State Board of Education to support the state's
public school educators in accessing instructional materials that support the 3Rs
framework of rights, responsibility, and respect.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
  • highlights the principles of the 3Rs framework, inspired by the religion clauses of
    the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which includes the
    following:
    • every person has rights;
    • every person has the responsibility to protect the rights of others; and
    • we honor the human dignity of others when we respectfully engage in civil
discourse;
  • recognizes the value of public school educators using the 3Rs framework as a tool
to prepare students to successfully navigate differences in American society and
dispel contempt in civic discourse;
  ▪ acknowledges the role of public school educators in preparing students for their
civic responsibilities;
  ▪ encourages the State Board of Education to support educators in accessing teaching
resources that support the 3Rs framework; and
  ▪ acknowledges that the proper treatment of religion in public school settings will
prepare Utah's students to be champions of the First Amendment to the United
States Constitution.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, American society is more polarized and divided than ever, and in our
surging culture of contempt, youth are learning to value only those with whom they agree and
see others as the enemy;

WHEREAS, S.C.R. 2, A Call to Civility, passed during the 2009 General Session,
affirms ground rules for civic and public engagement framed in terms of rights, responsibilities,
and respect inherent in our civic and constitutional compact;

WHEREAS, H.C.R. 7, Resolution Promoting Character and Citizenship Education,
passed during the 2003 General Session, encourages Utah's public elementary and secondary
schools to promote character and citizenship education through an emphasis on rights,
responsibility, and respect;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, the supreme law of the land, provides
principles for self-government and establishes a republican form of government that requires
all American citizens to live in productive relationships with each other to keep our republic;

WHEREAS, the unique religion clauses of the First Amendment to the United States
Constitution have the following characteristics:
  • they make it possible for American citizens to live in productive
relationships with one another;
  • they are the boldest and most successful part of the entire American
they protect the individual ways we act on our consciences;
they guarantee the state will not require any particular expression of faith
or penalize someone for their choice not to believe; and
they protect what it means to be fully human and the essence of what it
means to be an American;
WHEREAS, the 3Rs framework - inspired by the principles of the religion clauses of
the First Amendment to the United States Constitution - includes the following components:
every person has rights;
every person has the responsibility to protect the rights of others; and
we honor the human dignity of others when we respectfully engage in
civil discourse;
WHEREAS, commitment to the tenets of the 3Rs framework helps members of the
public live in productive relationships with their fellow citizens;
WHEREAS, as Utah citizens become champions for understanding the rights of others,
feel the responsibility to protect the rights of others, and honor the human dignity of others by
respectfully engaging in civil discourse, they will lead the country in overturning our current
national culture of contempt;
WHEREAS, Utahns are not required to change their values or agree with positions that
offend their consciences, but can model to the nation how to live in productive relationships
with fellow citizens across our deepest differences and within the framework of the United
States Constitution, and these productive and respectful relationships promote honest
conversation between trustworthy political rivals and help to counter the increase of contempt
and incivility in our country;
WHEREAS, the civic mission of public schools to prepare students for citizenship in
our constitutional republic;
WHEREAS, public schools are microcosms of the American public square where
students learn how to live in productive relationships across deep differences and schools have
a role in preparing students for their civic responsibilities, especially in equipping them with
the civic competencies of religious liberty, religious literacy, and civil dialogue;
WHEREAS, the processes and procedures of the Legislature and the decorum expected
throughout the legislative process provides a model for classroom teachers to facilitate
discussion across differences, such as neutral committee chairs allowing space for various
viewpoints in committee meetings, allowing space for strong disagreement without attacks, and
encouraging decorum and respect across deep differences;

WHEREAS, public school classroom discussions can reflect the decorum of the public
square demonstrated by the Legislature, with classroom teachers acting as neutral guides
through difficult discussions and serving as facilitators of student expression and exploration of
current events and ideas, which provides space for strong disagreement without attacks;

WHEREAS, teachers can use the 3Rs framework of rights, responsibility, and respect
to set expectations for students with differing views to engage with each other, which prepares
students to engage civilly in the public square, even across differences;

WHEREAS, public schools are not religion-free zones, nor are they places where
religion is transferred to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Social Studies, the United States Department
of Education, and 21 additional organizations across the political spectrum published
consensus guidelines in 2000 for teaching about religion in public schools that include the
following tenets:

- the school's approach to religion is academic, not devotional;
- the school strives for student awareness of religions but does not press
  for student acceptance of any religion;
- the school sponsors study about religion, not the practice of religion;
- the school may expose students to a diversity of religious views but may
  not impose any particular view;
- the school educates about all religions but it does not promote or
  denigrate religion; and
- the school informs the student about various beliefs but it does not seek
  to conform students to any particular belief:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
honors the role of public school educators in preparing Utah students for their civic
responsibilities and the urgent need to overturn the culture of contempt dividing our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the State Board of
Education to support public school educators in accessing teaching resources that support using
the 3Rs framework in preparing students with the practical understanding that every person has
rights, every person has the responsibility to protect the rights of others, and we honor the
human dignity of others when we respectfully engage in civil discourse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages public school educators
to support the development of the civic competencies of religious liberty, religious literacy, and
civil dialogue to prepare students for citizenship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms the proper understanding of
religion in the American public school, specifically that the Establishment Clause of the First
Amendment to the United States Constitution requires the government, including public school
educators, to be neutral toward religion and the Free Exercise Clause protects public expression
of belief or no belief in the public square, including among public school students, and that
public school educators cannot favor one religion over another or suppress the free exercise of
conscience or religion among their students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature acknowledges that proper treatment
of religion, especially in terms of religious differences, in the public school setting will prepare
Utah students to be champions of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and
lead the nation in successfully navigating our deepest differences and overturning our rising
culture of contempt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to the
Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of
the State Board of Education, the Utah School Superintendents Association for distribution to
the superintendents of Utah's 41 school districts, directors of each regional service center, the
Utah Rural Schools Association, and the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals
and the Utah Association of Secondary School Principals for distribution to every school
principal in Utah.