

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING ZHIFAN DONG**
2 **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

3 2023 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Jerry W. Stevenson**

6 House Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This resolution approves a settlement agreement to resolve claims against the state, the
11 University of Utah, and individual employees of the University of Utah.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ approves a settlement agreement for claims related to the death of Zhifan Dong.

15 **Special Clauses:**

16 None

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

19 WHEREAS, following the death of University of Utah student Zhifan Dong, her
20 parents, Junfang Shen and Mingsheng Dong ("Claimants") filed a notice of claim against the
21 state, the University of Utah, and individual employees of the University of Utah
22 ("Defendants");

23 WHEREAS, the notice of claim sets forth claims alleging negligence, wrongful death,
24 and violations of the state and federal constitutions and Title IX;

25 WHEREAS, the parties participated in mediation that resulted in a proposed settlement
26 agreement;

27 WHEREAS, under the proposed settlement agreement, the University of Utah agrees to



28 pay \$5,000,000, and the Claimants agree to release all claims, known or unknown, against
29 Defendants relating to or arising from events that caused damages relating to Zhifan Dong
30 ("Settlement Agreement");

31 WHEREAS, pursuant to Utah Code Section [63G-10-302](#), the governor has approved
32 the Settlement Agreement;

33 WHEREAS, Utah Code Section [63G-10-303](#) requires approval from the Legislature for
34 any settlement agreement that legally binds the state to take action that might cost government
35 entities more than \$1,000,000 to implement; and

36 WHEREAS, the cost of implementing the Settlement Agreement will exceed
37 \$1,000,000:

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature approves the Settlement
39 Agreement.