

Nicholeen P. Peck proposes the following substitute bill:

Joint Resolution Encouraging Strong Family Units

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution promotes strengthening families.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- highlights the contributions made and benefits from stable family relationships;
- promotes the Success Sequence to teach students how to create strong family units; and
- encourages policies creating family stability and a strong foundation for Utah children.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, marriage and stable family relationships provide significant social, emotional, and economic benefits to children, adults, and communities;

WHEREAS, strong families contribute to reduced poverty, improved educational outcomes, healthier communities, and long-term economic stability;

WHEREAS, Utah has historically maintained strong marriage and family formation rates, which have contributed to the state's prosperity and community cohesion;

WHEREAS, recent demographic trends indicate declining marriage rates, delayed family formation, and declining fertility rates both nationally and within Utah;

WHEREAS, many young adults express a desire for marriage and children but report economic, cultural, technological, and social barriers that influence family decisions;

WHEREAS, policymakers benefit from accurate and coordinated information regarding the economic, cultural, and social conditions that affect marriage and family formation;

WHEREAS, strengthening families is a shared public interest that respects pluralism,

30 religious liberty, and individual choice while promoting the well-being of future generations;

31 WHEREAS, Utah is committed to creating strong families;

32 WHEREAS, Utah promotes the Success Sequence where children are encouraged to
33 complete at least a high school education, obtain full-time work, and marry before having
34 children;

35 WHEREAS, the Success Sequence teaches students the importance of education, financial
36 responsibility, and intact, healthy marriages;

37 WHEREAS, many grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families find
38 themselves in a less-than-ideal situation when raising children;

39 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families work diligently
40 and often raise remarkable children despite the hardships they face;

41 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren and single-parent families should never be
42 stigmatized; and

43 WHEREAS, Utah's early-childhood tax credit provides financial relief to families during
44 the early, formative years of a child's life:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah commits
46 to provide children with the greatest opportunities for success in life by prioritizing intact
47 families in legislation language, including maintaining the terms mother, father, and parents in
48 Utah code and adding those terms into legislation when possible in order to maintain a state
49 focus on families and to direct attention towards creating strong families for Utah's children.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages and
51 promotes two-parent families, strong marriages, and healthy family communication.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah prioritizes intact
53 families, promotes the Success Sequence, and continuing and increasing the the
54 early-childhood tax credits for parents and grandparents who struggle to meet the needs of
55 their children and grandchildren, including providing for food and child care, to create
56 financial security, upward mobility, and family stability that creates a strong foundation for
57 Utah children.