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**FATHERS DO MATTER CONCURRENT**

**RESOLUTION**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gene Davis**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges government agencies and nonprofit organizations to study and address the consequences of father-absent households.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ urges government agencies and nonprofit organizations to study and more fully understand the dynamics of fatherhood programs to address the consequences of father-absent households, including poverty, child abuse, teen pregnancy, lack of education, drug and alcohol abuse, childhood obesity, and domestic and community violence.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, the effects of father-absent households have contributed to poverty, maternal and child health risks, incarceration, crime, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, lack of education, and childhood obesity;

WHEREAS, father-absent households create a substantial drain on societal and



28 government resources;

29 WHEREAS, in Utah, many organizations have not been educated on the significant role  
30 fathers play in resolving social issues in communities throughout the state;

31 WHEREAS, many fathers have not grasped how they, as role models, impact their  
32 children;

33 WHEREAS, to the extent fathers struggle to accept and fulfill their responsibilities to  
34 family members, communities in the state are at risk;

35 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative reports that the  
36 federal government spends \$100 billion every year to support father-absent households;

37 WHEREAS, the actual amount may be higher because the study did not measure the  
38 impact of related costs like the criminal justice system, which is overwhelmed by men who  
39 grew up in father-absent households;

40 WHEREAS, any serious effort to address poverty, child abuse, crime and recidivism,  
41 drug abuse, teen pregnancy, or lack of education must make restoring fatherhood an integral  
42 part of the solution;

43 WHEREAS, a father-absent household is not a single issue, and its social and economic  
44 consequences are felt across society;

45 WHEREAS, 25 million men, or one out of three, grow up in homes where their  
46 biological father does not reside;

47 WHEREAS, these children are significantly more likely to live in poverty, drop out of  
48 school, and engage in risky behaviors; and

49 WHEREAS, government agencies and nonprofit organizations should understand the  
50 dynamics of fatherhood programs like other social services programs to most effectively  
51 address the impact father-absent households have on families and communities:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
53 Governor concurring therein, urge government agencies and nonprofit organizations to study  
54 and more fully understand the dynamics of fatherhood programs that can address the  
55 consequences of father-absent households, including poverty, child abuse, teen pregnancy, lack  
56 of education, and domestic and community violence.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah  
58 Department of Human Services, the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities

59 and Towns, and the Utah Nonprofit Association.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-29-10 8:35 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.C.R. 8 - Fathers Do Matter Concurrent Resolution**

**Fiscal Note**

2010 General Session  
State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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