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| 1        | JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EDUCATORS OF THE  |
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| 2        | DEAF AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS  |
| 3        | 2018 GENERAL SESSION   |
| 4        | STATE OF UTAH  |
| 5        | Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto  |
| 6        | House Sponsor: Steve Eliason   |
| 7<br>8   | LONG TITLE   |
| 9        | General Description:   |
| 10       | This resolution recognizes the efforts of educators of the deaf and American Sign          |
| 11       | Language instructors and highlights the contributions of American Sign Language to         |
| 12       | the culture of the state.  |
| 13       | Highlighted Provisions:  |
| 14       | This resolution:   |
| 15       | <ul> <li>highlights the history of American Sign Language in the United States;</li> </ul> |
| 16       | <ul> <li>expresses support for the Deaf Community in the state; and</li> </ul>             |
| 17       | recognizes the efforts of Utah's educators of the deaf and American Sign Language          |
| 18       | instructors in sharing American Sign Language with students and community                  |
| 19       | members across the state.  |
| 20       | Special Clauses:   |
| 21<br>22 | None   |
| 23       | Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:                                    |
| 24       | WHEREAS, various forms of sign language were used throughout the United States             |
| 25       | prior to 1817;   |
| 26       | WHEREAS, American Sign Language (ASL) is believed to have primarily originated             |
| 27       | in Hartford, Connecticut, when a father seeking help to educate his deaf daughter, Alice   |
| 28       | Cogswell, sent Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet to Europe to learn the pedagogy of formalized deaf |
| 29       | education in Europe;   |

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| 30 | WHEREAS, after being denied access to oral schools for the deaf in Great Britain, the            |
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| 31 | French Institut National de Jeunes Sourds de Paris offered to teach Gallaudet its manual         |
| 32 | methods;   |
| 33 | WHEREAS, an assistant at the school, Laurent Clerc, accompanied Gallaudet back to                |
| 34 | the United States and together, along with Mason Cogswell, founded the first permanent school    |
| 35 | for the deaf, the American School for the Deaf, in Hartford, Connecticut, on April 15, 1817;     |
| 36 | WHEREAS, the establishment of the American School for the Deaf lead to the creation              |
| 37 | of deaf schools across the country;  |
| 38 | WHEREAS, knowledge of American Sign Language spread to these schools as well;                    |
| 39 | WHEREAS, on April 8, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the charter for                      |
| 40 | Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the first school for the advanced education of the     |
| 41 | deaf and hard of hearing in the world;   |
| 42 | WHEREAS, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was established on August                   |
| 43 | 26, 1884, as the educating body for deaf and hard of hearing students in Utah;                   |
| 44 | WHEREAS, despite widespread use, American Sign Language was not fully                            |
| 45 | legitimized until 1955 when the linguist William Stokoe demonstrated that the attributes of      |
| 46 | American Sign Language are comparable to oral languages;   |
| 47 | WHEREAS, on March 13, 1988, the Deaf President Now movement succeeded in                         |
| 48 | having I. King Jordan named the first deaf president of Gallaudet University;                    |
| 49 | WHEREAS, Americans celebrate Deaf History Month each year from March 13 to                       |
| 50 | April 15, straddling two months to recognize three key dates in deaf history: March 13, April 8, |
| 51 | and April 15;  |
| 52 | WHEREAS, people across the country annually celebrate National American Sign                     |
| 53 | Language Day on April 15;  |
| 54 | WHEREAS, Utah is continuing the legacy of educating deaf and hard of hearing                     |
| 55 | students established over the past 133 years through the work of the Utah Schools for the Deaf   |
| 56 | and the Blind;   |
| 57 | WHEREAS, American Sign Language education is a valuable scholastic resource for                  |

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many students in school districts across the state as exemplified by the ASL program at Skyline High School, which enhances classroom study with opportunities to engage students from the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the community through activities such as plays performed in ASL; and

WHEREAS, current studies estimate American Sign Language to be the third most used language in the United States:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah declares its support for the state's Deaf Community and the rich, vibrant language it adds to our culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the tireless efforts of Utah's American Sign Language educators and educators of the deaf and hard of hearing who share the beauty of ASL with deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students and community members across the state.