

**SENATE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SEPARATION OF FAMILIES AT THE BORDER**

2018 SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gene Davis**

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution urges the Congress of the United States and federal policymakers to preserve and reunify families.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the family values held by Utah citizens;
- ▶ recognizes the role of government to support and preserve families and to act in the best interests of a child; and
- ▶ urges the United States Congress and federal policymakers to end the practice of separating children from migrant families and to reunite children who have already been separated.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, Utahns firmly believe that families belong together;

WHEREAS, the role of government in respect to the family should be to support and preserve the family;

WHEREAS, the best interests of the child should always be the government's objective when the government takes action in relation to a child;



28           WHEREAS, only in certain cases of a parent's abuse or neglect of a child should the  
29 government intervene to separate the family in order to protect the child;

30           WHEREAS, the government should always afford a parent full due process rights any  
31 time the government removes a child from a parent for any substantial period of time;

32           WHEREAS, the government should provide robust reunification services to reunite  
33 children who have been separated from their parents; and

34           WHEREAS, research abounds that children who are separated from their parents may  
35 experience trauma, which can impact the well-being of those children for years to come:

36           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the state of Utah urges the  
37 Congress of the United States and the policymakers within the federal government to halt the  
38 separation of migrant parents from their children, promptly reunify separated children with  
39 their parents, and desist from any further separation based upon a family's pursuit of asylum or  
40 any other legal immigration status.

41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's  
42 congressional delegation.