*MEDIA RELEASE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2020

CONTACT: Amy Choate-Nielsen
Utah PTA Director of Communications
amyn@utahpta.org, cell: 801-830-9434

Utah PTA takes position on education funding bills
Utah PTA votes to Support with Comment HB357 Sub 1 and SJR9 Sub 1

As the largest child advocacy association in the state, Utah PTA has paid close attention during the 2020 legislative session to bills that address ongoing funding for public education in Utah. After lengthy discussion, and acknowledging the tightrope of complexity which must be walked to find a suitable long-term solution that adequately funds inflation, enrollment growth and the Minimum School Program, Utah PTA has voted to take a position of Support with Comment on HB357 Sub 1 “Public Education Funding Stabilization” and SJR9 Sub 1 “Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution – Use of Tax Revenue.”

Utah PTA is releasing the following comment as part of our position:
Utah PTA appreciates the constitutional guarantee found within the Uniform School Fund of funding for the public education system and the promise of funding for the Minimum School Program, enrollment growth, and inflation provided by HB357 Sub 1. We support the creation of the public education economic stabilization fund to support our schools during an economic downturn. We recognize that HB357 Sub 1 and SJR9 Sub 1 must pass together, however, we have concerns about the vagueness of the statement “children and individuals with a disability” that is currently proposed to be added to the Utah Constitution through SJR9 Sub 1, and what that will mean in the future for items to be funded out of the education fund. Utah PTA will advocate for more specificity to be added to this statement before it goes before a vote of the people in November.

We appreciate the time and energy our legislators invest in seeking positive solutions for the children of our state. Utah PTA has resolved to continue to urge the Legislature to make public education revenue allocations and funding a high priority as we continue to work for the mission of PTA — to help every child’s potential become a reality.

###

**About Utah PTA:** Utah PTA is a non-profit grassroots child advocacy association made up of parents, teachers, and students with a membership of 85,000 people throughout Utah. Utah PTA is an affiliate of National PTA and is organized in Utah at local, council, and state levels.

www.utahpta.org