



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Utah PTA opposes H.B. 215 Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities

Following the meeting of the Utah PTA Legislative Advocacy Committee and ratification by the Utah PTA Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors, Utah PTA opposes **H.B. 215 Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities** - the Utah Fits All Scholarship program. Utah PTA opposes funding mechanisms that divert funds away from the public education system.

Although Utah PTA supports the increase of teacher salaries, we cannot support the distribution of up to \$8000 per student to education service providers with no oversight on teaching quality, standards, assessment, and accountability. We are extremely concerned that HB 215 leaves no protections for Special Education students. We do not support the creation of a new program manager who is encouraged to maximize the number of eligible service providers throughout the year. We are concerned that this program creates inequities for our rural students and are worried about new service providers being created in these areas with no accountability.

Utah PTA appreciates that Utah's students are unique and have unique educational needs. Utah PTA celebrates the wide range of choices that can be found within the public education system. Utah students can attend traditional neighborhood schools, charter schools, and online schools and can divide up their day in a way that best meets their needs. They enjoy many opportunities including dual immersion, International Baccalaureate, concurrent enrollment, partnerships with technical colleges, and more. Utah students of all ages participate in Career and Technical education, music and arts programs, sports, language, and STEM experiences. Utah PTA requests that the Utah Legislature prioritize funding within the public education system to support Utah's students.

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