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abusive practices from coaches:

## JOINT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ABUSIVE COACHING PRACTICES

## 2024 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes** 

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This resolution condemns abusive coaching practices in Utah schools.
Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
<ul><li>recognizes a power imbalance between a coach and student athletes;</li></ul>
<ul> <li>condemns abusive coaching practices from coaches; and</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>calls on Utah schools to provide safe and supportive environments for student athletes.</li> </ul>
Other Special Clauses:
None
Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
WHEREAS, coaches are responsible for supporting and protecting their student athletes and
treating them with dignity;
WHEREAS, there is a power imbalance between coaches and student athletes in which
athletes do not have a significant voice;
WHEREAS, research shows that people and children perform better in positive, safe,
encouraging, and supportive environments;
WHEREAS, throwing objects, using obscene language, name-calling, threatening to revoke
athletic scholarships, supporting and encouraging eating disorders, and other actions can
constitute abuse;
WHEREAS, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse degrades student athletes, diminishes
student athletes' interest in sports, damages self-esteem, harms mental health, and impacts
academic performance; and

WHEREAS, student athletes fear retaliation and repercussions from speaking out against

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29	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
30	recognizes the importance of protecting student athletes and condemns abusive coaching
31	practices in Utah schools.
32	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages Utah schools to create
33	positive environments for student athletes by penalizing abusive coaching practices in school
34	sports.
35	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages school sports teams to
36	incorporate practices to support healthy relationships and mindsets.