



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Was it good for kids?





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all the voices that joined together to speak up for Utah kids this past legislative session. Your support—through every challenge and every win—makes a difference. Now more than ever, our kids need you. Stay engaged, stay involved, and keep advocating with us for policies that are good for all Utah kids!

Thank you from all of us at Voices!

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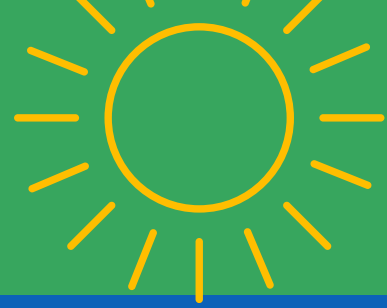






# WAS IT GOOD FOR KIDS?

*Navigating the aftermath of the legislative session*



## How was the 2025 legislative session for Utah kids?

Very, very rough. Of course, there were some bright spots, as you will see in the subsequent pages. Our team and community partners continue to stop terrible bills and pass positive policies, despite the challenges.

Every year, though, the opportunities for doing this good work shrink—and not by accident.

Our state leaders are actively cutting off the democratic avenues we have historically used to advocate for the well-being of Utah kids:

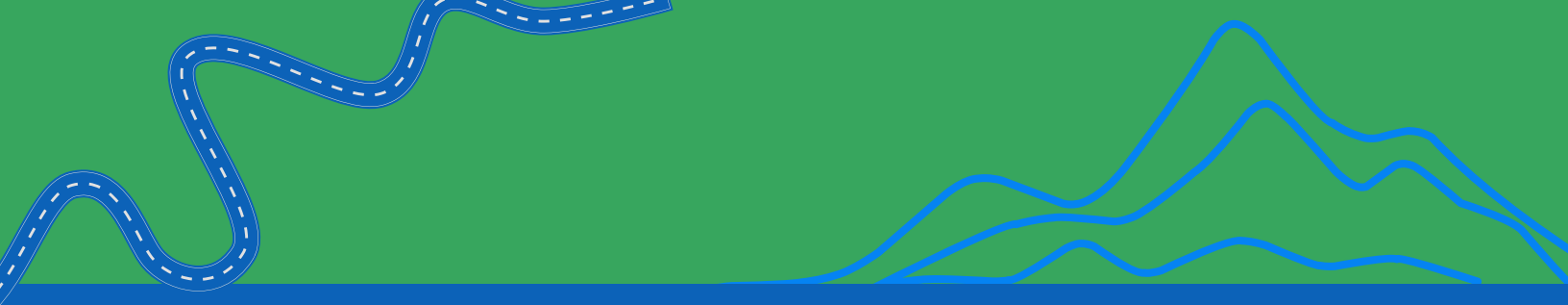
- Critical media voices are shut out.
- Conversations that will impact all our children's lives for years to come are conducted entirely behind closed doors.
- Constituents are ignored and avoided—or even worse, bullied—by their own legislators.

If it seems as though the team at Voices for Utah Children is talking more and more each year about the overall political and procedural realities of the session...well, we are!

Because an unresponsive, unaccountable state government is very, very bad for kids.

Champions for pro-kid policies can't be successful, if state leaders simply decide they won't listen to the public (or the courts!) anymore. It doesn't matter how great our research is, or how well-tested our proposals, if legislative leadership insist on a "process" in which the desires, concerns and frustrations of their everyday constituents can simply be ignored.





All of our child policy issue areas are impacted by the same very serious overarching challenges. We simply can't advance any positive policy for kids if our state leaders continue to:

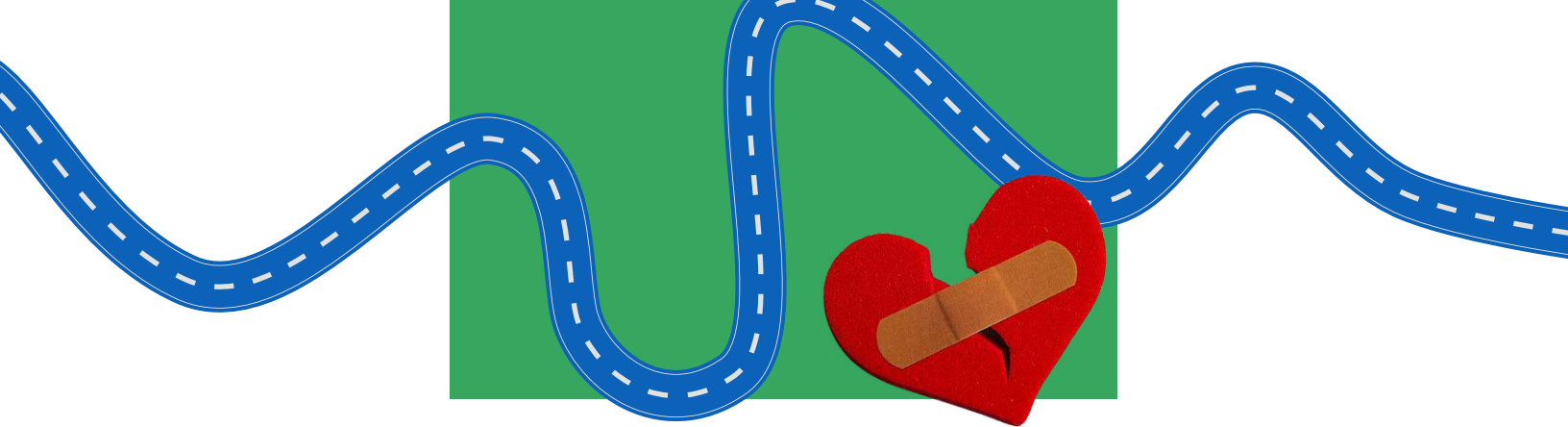
- Give tax breaks to the rich, instead of investing our tax dollars into programs that help children.
- Disdain expert advice and the lived experience of people impacted by proposed legislation.
- Follow the dictates of extremist national groups, while ignoring actual Utah problems and the concerns of their constituents.

Speaking up for Utah kids at the state legislature has always been challenging - but our team has never shied away from that tough work. Looking toward the future, though, we are going to have to get creative in how we achieve our goal of making life better for all Utah kids.

Regardless of the political climate and social chaos, kids matter! They are directly impacted by the choices and mistakes of adults - especially those in leadership positions, making decisions that impact their families. While our strategies may change to adapt to new realities, our responsibility and commitment to Utah kids must be evergreen.

**With your support and partnership, we have been able to accomplish many great things for Utah kids over the years. Looking ahead, we will need your energy, originality and courage more than ever!**





# CHILDREN'S HEALTH

*This legislative session we protected children's health care and fought against attempts to end researched and vetted public health measures and programs.*

*Thaiss Del Rio & Ciriac Alvarez Valle*

We began the session opposing HB 178, by Rep. R. Neil Walter (R-Washington), that sought to eliminate the recently implemented State CHIP program.

This program has provided essential coverage and care to nearly 2,000 immigrant children over the past year.

**Thanks to strong advocacy and a broad range of supporters, the bill never received a hearing.**



Over 35 organizations and entities signed on to protect this vital program that has already provided preventative care such as 1,500 wellness visits and more than 600 immunizations.

Meanwhile, Sen. Brammer's Medicaid Accounts Amendments resurfaced again. The bill aimed to broadly redefine the definition of a Medicaid shortfall with the sole intent of triggering devastating program cuts to Medicaid.



Though both bills failed, repeated attacks on critical health programs underscore the need for continued vigilance, education, and advocacy.



Unfortunately, Rep. Stephanie Gricius' (R-Eagle Mountain) HB 81, banning fluoride in public water systems, passed the legislative session. This bill endangers the dental health of 1.5 million Utahns, especially children.

The passage of this bill makes Utah the first state in the nation to ban community water fluoridation, which has been a critical measure in preventing tooth decay for children and promoting oral health.

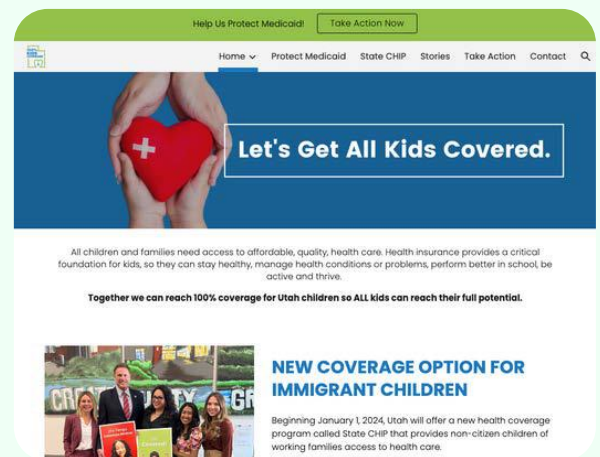




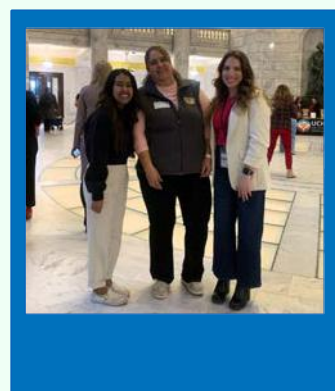
Despite these threats, there were also moments of progress for Utah families.

HB 310 Disability Coverage Amendments by Rep. Dailey-Provost (D-Salt Lake) creates a Medicaid wraparound program for Utahns with disabilities, ensuring access to essential services while allowing program participants to work and maintain financial stability.

Lastly, we are so glad to have participated in the Community Health Worker Day on the Hill and continue advocating for increased funding for CHWs in our state. CHWs continue to play a vital role in public health efforts to advance health equity and we are grateful to continue supporting efforts that promote and advance their work.



[www.100percentkids.health](http://www.100percentkids.health)



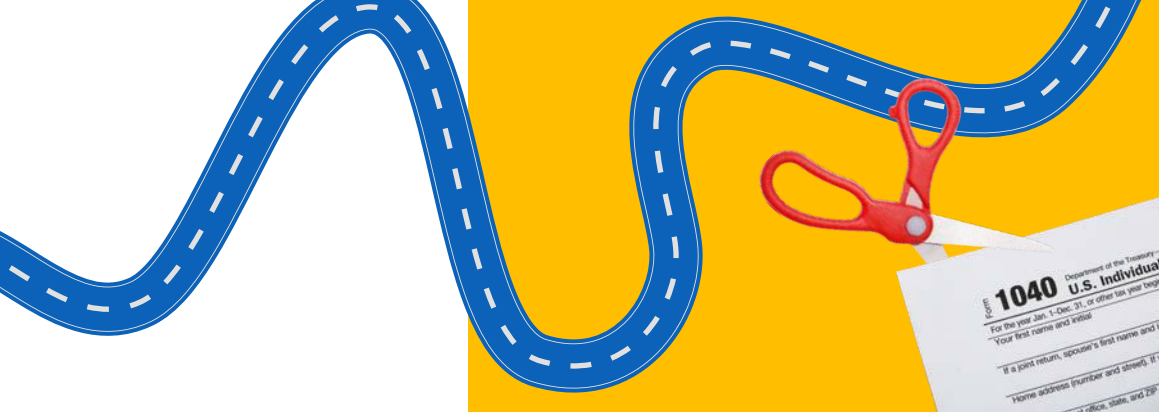




# HEALTH BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB 178 Noncitizen Health Insurance Policies Amendments</u></b>	Rep. R. Neil Walter (R-Washington)	Eliminates Utah's State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that serves nearly 2,000 immigrant children.	<b>OPPOSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB 257 Medicaid Accounts Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Brady Brammer (R-Utah)	Broadens the definition of a "Medicaid Shortfall," threatening the health care coverage of children and other vulnerable communities.	<b>OPPOSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB 347-S4 Social Services Program Amendments</u></b>	Rep. James Dunnigan (R-Salt Lake)	Changes provisions related to the Medicaid ACA Fund, substance use and mental health program licensure, certified community health workers, certain Medicaid drugs, and more.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB 310 Disability Coverage Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost (D-Salt Lake)	Creates a Medicaid wraparound program for Utahns with disabilities, ensuring access to essential services while allowing recipients to work and maintain financial stability.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>





# BUDGET & REVENUE

*Lawmakers prioritized cutting taxes for Utah's richest people, while offering non-existent tax relief for regular Utah families.*

Jenna Williams



This year, the Utah legislature orchestrated a fifth consecutive year of tax cuts, reducing public revenue by more than \$100 million. These cuts add up to \$1.4B annually—funds that could be used to strengthen schools, childcare, and healthcare. The new tax cut will save a typical Utah family \$45 a year.

Analysis from the Institute for Tax & Economic Policy shows that the last four tax cuts will provide an average annual surplus of over \$17,000 for the top 1% of earners, while the bottom 80% will receive less than \$250 a year.

Once again, lawmakers prioritized cutting taxes for Utah's richest people, while offering meager tax relief for regular Utah families.

Legislation to expand Utah's nonrefundable child tax credit was rolled into the tax cut package. Households earning between about \$27,000 and \$80,000, depending on filing status and family size, can qualify for the credit if they have children under age six.



This expansion will make the credit available to only 3% of all Utah families, benefiting 9.2% of children, with an average annual tax savings of \$585 per eligible family.

The tax cut package also included a business tax credit to encourage Utah employers to construct on-site child care centers for employees. There was also a small expansion of the social security tax credit.

With expected revenues down, legislative leaders stated that Utah didn't have enough revenue for even basic programs, the "socks and underwear" of funding requests. Many pressing community needs went unmet.

Sen. Nate Blouin's (D-Millcreek) SB244, which proposed a "fair share" tax on millionaires to generate new revenue, gained significant media attention but died in committee.

\$100 Million Dollar Income Tax Cut:							
How much would you get?							
Income Bracket	Bottom 20%	Lower-mid 30%	Middle 20%	Upper-mid 20%	Top 6-20%	Top 2-3%	Top 1%
Salary Range	Up to \$36,000	\$36,000 - \$63,100	\$63,100 - \$103,200	\$103,200 - \$156,200	\$156,200 - \$323,200	\$323,200 - \$882,100	\$882,100+
Professions	Childcare Educator or Cook	Firefighter or Teacher	Nurse or Accountant	Lawyer or Engineer	Chief Executive	Surgeon	Tech CEO or College Football Coach
Annual savings from the new 2025 tax cut	\$13	\$23	\$35	\$56	\$91	\$200	\$1,929
Total annual savings from the last 4 tax cuts	\$106	\$201	\$313	\$506	\$820	\$1,798	\$17,361

Lawmakers increased funding for Utah's school voucher program by \$40M (Gov. Cox approved only \$20M). The annual cost of the program will be more than \$100M by 2027. The program lacks safeguards to ensure quality education and accountability for taxpayer dollars.

Legislature · Mar 3, 2025 · 3 min read

## Utah's education budget: \$120M new funds vs. \$143M to tax cuts, vouchers

Bryan Schott



Despite lower-than-predicted revenue and numerous unmet funding requests, lawmakers still cut the income tax rate and expanded Utah's school [voucher program](#).

Vouchers mainly benefit families that are already in private school or homeschooling, and divert public dollars from public schools. Studies show negative academic outcomes with vouchers and private schools can exclude students with special needs.



Despite Utah's rank as dead last in per-pupil education spending, lawmakers again

prioritized voucher expansion over public school investment, following a national push by ultra-right billionaires to privatize education.

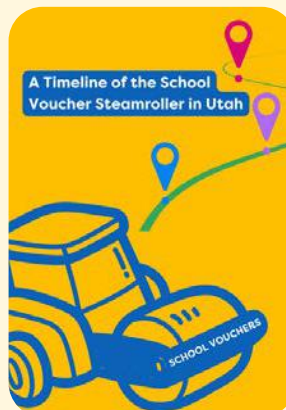


Lawmakers continued their efforts to redirect education funds by advancing SB37 from Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (R-South Jordan), which diverts property

tax revenue from schools into the state's general fund for non-education uses. Though vetoed by Gov. Cox, the legislature could override the veto. Combined with elimination of the income tax, this threatens future investment in Utah kids.

## BLOG SERIES

### Vouchers and School Privatization in Utah



[bit.ly/utahvouchers](https://bit.ly/utahvouchers)



# BUDGET & REVENUE BILLS



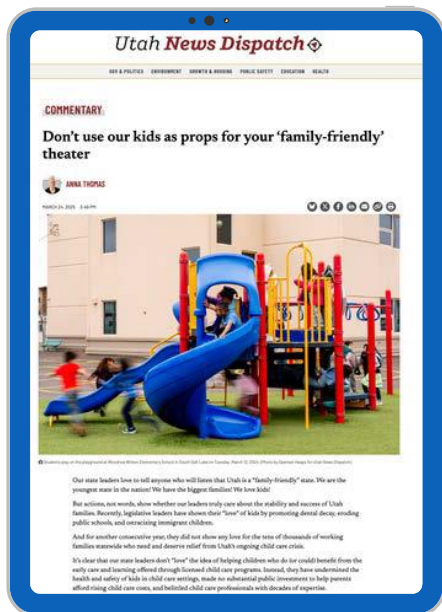
Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB106 Income Tax Revisions</u></b>	Rep. Jay Christofferson (R-Lehi)	Reduces Utah's income tax for the fifth straight year, from 4.55% to 4.5% - leeching over \$100 million in ongoing public revenue out of the state budget.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB316 Child Tax Credit Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Mark Strong (R-Bluffdale)	Expands Utah's nonrefundable Child Tax Credit to include newborns and 5-year-olds (currently includes 1-4 year olds).	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB389 Child Care Business Tax Credit</u></b>	Rep. Jason Thompson (R-Cache)	Establishes a business tax credit for employers that construct an on-site child care facility for employees.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>SB 37 Minimum Basic Tax Rate Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Fillmore (R-Salt Lake)	Diverts local property tax revenue from schools, and into the state's general fund for non-education uses.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>VETOED</b>
<b><u>SB244 Modifications to Income Tax</u></b>	Sen. Nate Blouin (D-Millcreek)	Introduces a dedicated tax rate on income exceeding \$1,000,000, raising the rate for high-income Utahns to 5.55%. Also makes Utah's Earned Income Tax Credit refundable, allowing low-income families to benefit.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## EARLY LEARNING & CARE

*Once again, supporting families with young children remained a top policy priority this session. We are pleased to report that more childcare legislation was introduced this year than during any session in the past decade.*

*Anna Thomas & Moana 'Ulu'uave*



HB382, sponsored by Rep. Ashlee Matthews (D-Kearns), sought funding for an innovative program she established in 2024. This approach, which reimburses childcare programs for benefits to their staff, has been initiated successfully in at least seven other states. The bill also clearly directed the state Office of Child Care to implement the program, which they have so far refused to do.



Sen. Luz Escamilla (D-Salt Lake) sponsored SB221, a bold attempt to re-establish basic safety and accountability measures among Utah's thousands of unlicensed childcare programs. Legislative leaders in the House killed the bill, though, along with several others proposed by Sen. Escamilla to address the childcare crisis in Utah.

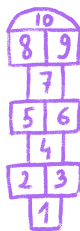
**Unfortunately, the true demands of childcare stakeholders were not well-reflected in the few tepid bills that were allowed to pass.**

We worked closely with several legislators to propose much-needed public investment in the childcare sector, and supported early education bills championed by other community organizations.

Our two priority childcare bills - both of which failed to pass - sought to build on past early care and learning successes, while undoing recent damage to childcare safety standards.







HB373 and HB410, both sponsored by Republican legislators, were positive but minimal efforts to support various childcare solutions that are being explored by private businesses and municipal governments.

The state's decade-old preschool grant program finally saw an increase in funding this year, after years of stagnating investment.

However, rather than the “doubling” of funds recommended by the new state Child Care Solutions and Workforce Productivity Plan, the program only received a 17% increase. The legislature appropriated only an additional \$2 million a year for three years, using federal TANF funding (which is notoriously restrictive).

We are relieved that state leaders, while doing next to nothing to address the needs of families who rely on childcare, did not make the crisis substantially worse this year through clumsy and dangerous “deregulation” attempts. There were actually zero childcare bills we opposed!

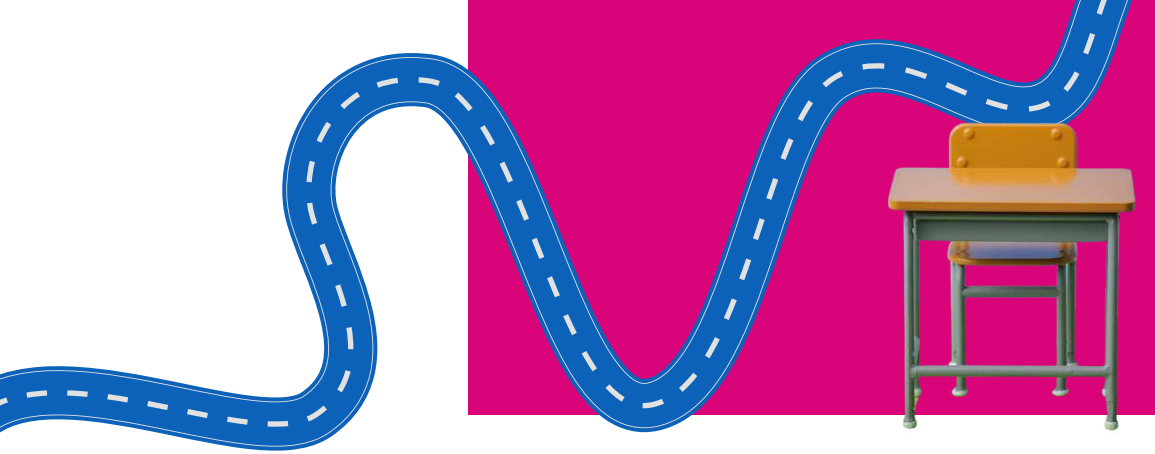




# EARLY LEARNING & CARE BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB382 Child Care Modifications</u></b>	Rep. Ashlee Matthews (D-Kearns)	Funds the “Kentucky Model” of childcare workforce recruitment and retention through business reimbursements.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB373 Service Marketplace Platform Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Jason Thompson (R-River Heights)	Facilitates the implementation of the Utah-based app “Upkid,” a paid service that connects childcare programs with substitute teachers.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB410 Child Care Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Tracy Miller (R-South Jordan)	Counts childcare work experience toward preschool qualifications, and authorizes the use of certain “reinvestment zone” funding for childcare facilities .	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>SB189 Child Care Services Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Luz Escamilla (D-Salt Lake)	Creates a pilot program to retrofit empty state buildings to accommodate new, employer-supported child care programs.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB221 Child Care Revisions</u></b>	Sen. Luz Escamilla (D-Salt Lake)	Re-establishes basic safety and accountability guidelines for childcare providers serving more than four unrelated children.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB264 Higher Education Certification Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Luz Escamilla (D-Salt Lake)	Creates a university-level business management credentialing program for childcare business owners.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>





# IMMIGRANT FAMILY POLICIES

*We correctly anticipated that immigration would be a looming issue during the 2025 Legislative Session, after public comments by state leaders in the preceding months that mentioned a “crisis on the border” and sought to tie immigrant families to unrelated public safety issues.*

*Liliana Eridani Bolaños & Ciriac Alvarez Valle*

Across the country, an increase in immigrant deportation and detention is causing fear and increased anxiety in immigrant communities.

Both federal and state policies have been proposed that will negatively impact Utah’s approximately 300,000 immigrants, many of them children. We focused our legislative advocacy on defending our communities and economy from these unwarranted attacks.

We worked with a broad range of partners to defend supportive programs for immigrant families, focusing on how these programs benefit the greater state population.

Our collective efforts coalesced around one primary message: Utah should not pursue punitive immigration policies that negatively impact everyone in our state.

For example, we opposed HB214, Employer Verification Amendments, which forced small businesses in Utah to participate in the federal E-Verify program, which has been poorly functioning for years without improvement.

We worked hard to ensure that the negative impacts of bills like HB 226, Criminal Amendments, were lessened to some degree. Though this bill passed, the final version was less damaging to immigrant families than it could have been.



[www.u-iac.com](http://www.u-iac.com)

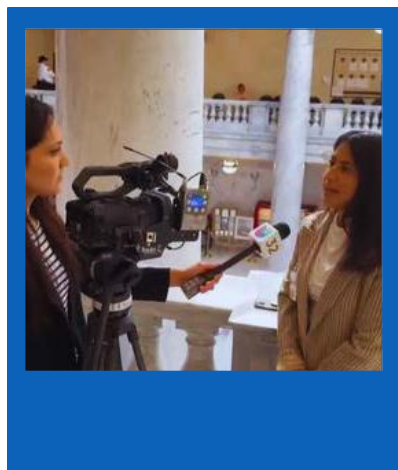


We defended programs already proven to work, as shown in our opposition to HB178, Noncitizen Health Insurance Policy Amendments. This bill would have stripped healthcare access from about 2,000 kids.

We also supported HB42, English Learner Amendments, which secured funding for school districts supporting increased numbers of English Learner students. While the funding approved is small and will benefit only a few districts, we are hopeful that the funding may positively impact those students.

Lastly, we fought against the rhetoric that continues to criminalize immigrants in our state. We have seen time and time again that immigrants are not more likely to commit crimes than their US Citizen counterparts.

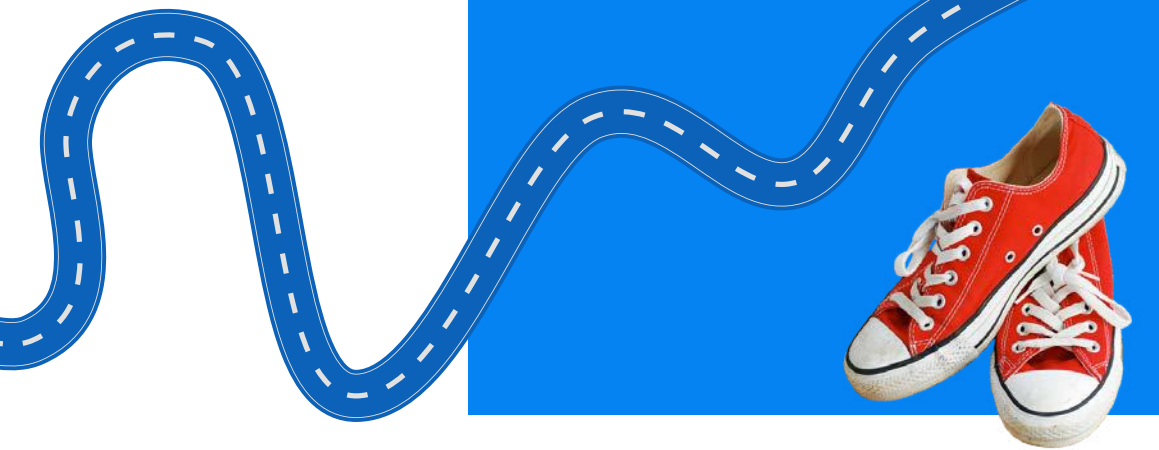
As we seek to maintain a safe and welcoming Utah, we hope to do so in a way that recognizes the dignity of immigrants, ensures due process regardless of status, and keeps more families together.





# IMMIGRANT FAMILY POLICIES BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<u><a href="#">HB42 English Learner Amendments</a></u>	Rep. Candice Pierucci (R-Herriman)	Provides additional but minimal funding for English Language Learner programs in some Utah public schools.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<u><a href="#">HB214 Employer Verification Amendments</a></u>	Rep. Neil Walter (R-Saint George)	Requires Utah businesses with five or more employees (currently 150 or more) employees to verify workers' legal status using the federal E-verify system.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<u><a href="#">HB226 Criminal Amendments</a></u>	Rep. Candice Pierucci (R-Herriman)	Increases the maximum penalty for certain misdemeanors from 364 to 365 days, triggering automatic deportation under federal law.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<u><a href="#">HB392 Unlicensed Driver Amendments</a></u>	Rep. Matt MacPherson (R-West Valley)	Allows law enforcement to impound vehicles and fingerprint individuals caught driving without a license.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<u><a href="#">SB31 Refugee Services Amendments</a></u>	Sen. Ronald Winterton (R-Roosevelt)	Codifies the Refugee Services Office in law, housed in the Dept. of Workforce Services.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>

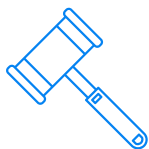


# JUVENILE JUSTICE

*The 2025 session featured some promising bills to enhance the service provided to youth and their families.*

*Martín Muñoz*

SB93 Juvenile Justice Career Training Amendments, sponsored by Sen. Derrin Owens (R-Fountain Green), would have created a career certificate program to support the workforce of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Service.



By hiring and training dedicated professionals to work with youth in the juvenile justice system, we improve the chances that struggling youth will receive the guidance and support they need to succeed. Sadly, despite the support of many juvenile justice agencies and community groups, this bill did not pass.

Sen. Stephanie Pitcher sponsored (D-Southeast Salt Lake County), SB157 Nonjudicial Adjustment Amendments, another bill we supported. The primary focus of SB157 was to offer youth and their families the opportunity to consult with legal counsel before agreeing to or declining a Nonjudicial Adjustment (NJA).

**Resolving a juvenile justice incident through an NJA helps to keep young people from getting trapped in the formal court system.**

Utah-based data consistently shows that diversion into alternative accountability avenues, like NJAs, lead to better outcomes for young offenders with low-level and first-time offenses. We were pleased to see this commonsense bill pass.







Of course, this session also featured legislative leadership's annual attempt to roll back Utah's nationally celebrated juvenile justice reforms, originally initiated in

2017. Fortunately, this year's effort was bungled and ultimately unsuccessful.

The aim of HB359, Juvenile Justice Amendments, sponsored by new lawmaker Rep. Nicholeen Peck (R-Tooele County), was apparently to roll back effective early interventions (such as those SB157 will strengthen). But the bill's provisions were poorly conceived and mostly redundant of existing laws, revealing the sponsor's lack of general knowledge about Utah's juvenile justice system.

The House Judiciary Committee held the bill for further study, in response to committee members' concerns over the bill's ability to address the issues the sponsor was attempting to resolve. Instead, the committee directed the Utah Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) to convene a multi-stakeholder working group to consider her stated concerns.

Our organization opposed this bill. Nonetheless, as a community-based voice on the JJOC for many years, we will contribute to this effort to develop better solutions to the concerns of some Utah legislators.

We also opposed HB40, School Safety Amendments, sponsored by Rep. Ryan Wilcox (R-Ogden).

This bill was a "clean up" effort meant to continue the implementation of last year's HB84 (also named School Safety Amendments, also sponsored by Rep. Wilcox and also opposed by Voices for Utah Children).

**We do not think that student safety should be beholden to community contributions and the interests of private security businesses.**

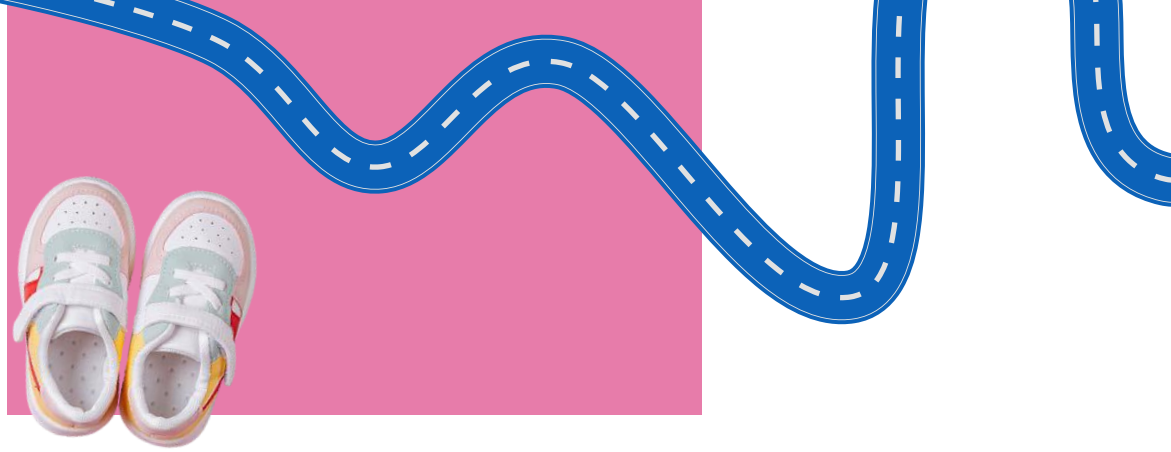
Despite the clear disadvantages posed to rural and low-income school districts, the bill passed after seven substituted versions, and Gov. Cox eventually signed it into law.



# JUVENILE JUSTICE BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB40 School Safety Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Ryan Wilcox (R-Ogden)	Allows for the establishment of School Safety Foundations.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB359 Juvenile Justice Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Nicholeen Peck (R-Tooele)	Reverses aspects of Utah's nationally-recognized juvenile justice reform, alters the rules related to nonjudicial adjustments (a way for kids to avoid court).	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB93 Juvenile Justice Career Training Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Derrin Owens (R-Fountain Green)	Creates a certificate program to encourage employment with the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services,	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB157 Nonjudicial Adjustments Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Stephanie Pitcher (D-Salt Lake)	Ensures that a youth and their family have the chance to consult with an attorney before rejecting a nonjudicial adjustment.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>





## CHILD WELFARE

*There are several overlaps between child welfare and juvenile justice policies. The Utah Department of Health and Human Services administers programs in both areas, and they are both within the purview of Utah's juvenile court system.*

*Martín Muñoz*



A good example of this intersection of juvenile justice and child welfare policy is HB384, Child Support Requirement, sponsored by Rep. Christine Watkins (R-Price).

This bill aimed to end Utah's absurd practice of charging families for "child support" while their children are incarcerated by the state. The Office of Recovery Services would cease collecting past-due child support and forgive any outstanding balances. HB384 did not pass.

We also supported HB129, Adoption Records Access Amendments, sponsored by Rep. Ray Ward (R-Bountiful), which allows individuals to access their childhood adoption records when they reach adulthood. This positive bill, which still allows for the protection of biological parents' privacy, successfully passed.

Once again, we supported legislative attempts to support family and culture for Native youth in the child welfare system. A version of this bill, presented before the resolution of a Supreme Court case about the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), failed to pass last year.

Championed by Rep. Angela Romero (D-Salt Lake), HB30, Indian Family Preservation Act Amendments, represented another good faith effort to establish similar state-level protections for Native children, their families, communities, and heritage.



**Voices has been a strong supporter of this proposal since last year. Utah should take this additional step to uphold the fundamental rights of Native families and protect the best interests of Native children.**

Instead, we observed a show of profound disrespect for the tribal communities who have worked on this bill, when legislative leaders did not allow it to have a single public hearing.



# CHILD WELFARE

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB30 Indian Family Preservation Act</u></b>	Rep. Angela Romero (D-Salt Lake)	Establishes a state version of the national Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB384 Child Support Requirements</u></b>	Rep. Christine Watkins (R-Price)	Ends Utah's practice of charging families "child support" when their child is in state custody.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB129 Adoption Record Access Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Ray Ward (R-Davis)	Allows individuals who were adopted as children to access their adoption record, when they are 18 years of age.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>







# Connecting With Community

Our team believe it is more important than ever to connect community members with information about what is happenings at the state Capitol.

This session, we hosted “Voices Talks: Weekly Virtual Updates on Kid-Related Legislation for our supporters and community partners. These calls allowed local advocates, as well as those in far-flung areas of the state, to get timely updates and honest assessments to community folks who care about kids.

The calls helped our staff gather critical input from folks on the ground, working directly with children, about the impacts of state policy.

Because there was such a coordinated legislative effort to scapegoat immigrants for unrelated state challenges, our immigrant family policy team also posted weekly updates on social media.

Yes! We'll give you all the latest updates!

This could be you!

Or you!

**VOICES TALKS**

WEEKLY CHILD ADVOCACY CALLS

Every Tuesday Throughout the Session

**CHILD ADVOCACY**

**DAYS ON THE HILL**

February 5 & February 19  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

UTAH CAPITOL





As conveners of the Utah Immigrant Advocacy Coalition, we worked hard to keep the public well-informed on the progress of—and misinformation behind—the many bills targeting immigrant children, their families, and communities.

These online updates proved extremely popular, with nearly 16,000 views over the course of the seven-week legislative session. Those views translated directly into hundreds of emails to legislators, showing support for Utah's immigrant children and opposition to the unwarranted attacks on their families.



## HB 30 Support the Indian Family Preservation Act



Despite the legislature's resistance to public engagement during the session, it remains the right of every Utahn to be at the Capitol, observing the process and connecting with elected officials.

To that end, we hosted two Child Advocacy Days on the Hill, where community advocates could learn about the legislative process, up close and on the scene. Some attendees met directly with their legislators, while others observed floor votes in the House and Senate.



## 35 ORGANIZATIONS & 90 INDIVIDUALS HAVE SIGNED ON TO PROTECT STATE CHIP

State CHIP currently provides primary and preventative coverage for approximately 2,000 Utah children. Repeal the program would mean these children would lose access to the vital health care they need to ensure they reach their potential.

As organizations, we oppose measures like HB 178 that remove access to health coverage for thousands of children throughout the state.



**The presence of people speaking up for kids at the Capitol sends an important message to our state leaders: we are watching, we can see you, and we expect better!**



## Another Year, Another Tax Cut





# OTHER BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>HB77 Flag Display Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Trevor Lee (R-Layton)	Bans the public display of support for the equal treatment of LGBTQ+ people, represented by a “Pride” flag, from all school classrooms and government buildings. Actively creates a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ children and their families, discourages public servants from acknowledging dignity of the LGBTQ+ community.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB81 Fluoride Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Stephanie Gricius (R-Eagle Mountain)	Bans fluoride in public water systems serving 1.5 million people, making Utah the first state in the nation to ban community water fluoridation, a critical measure in preventing tooth decay for children and promoting oral health.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB52 Health Insurance Modifications</u></b>	Rep. Candice Pierucci (R-Riverton)	Ensures that drug discount coupons count toward what a customer pays out-of-pocket, unless there’s a cheaper generic or bio-similar version of the drug available. Also allows some health plans with special cost rules to be exempt from this requirement.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB100 Food Security Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Tyler Clancy (R-Provo)	Provides free lunch to to students who qualify for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. Prohibits schools from publicly identifying or stigmatizing students unable to pay for meals.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB209 Homeschool Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Nicholeen Peck (R-Tooele)	Removes the requirement for parents to attest to criminal background history when notifying their school district of their intent to homeschool. Doing this allows convicted abusers to homeschool without any restrictions. Utah was one of just three states that bars homeschooling parents convicted of child abuse, sexual offenses, or other crimes that would disqualify them from employment as a teacher.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>HB326 Pregnant and Postpartum Inmate Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Candice Pierucci (R-Riverton)	Requires jails to offer pregnancy tests and collect parental information from incarcerated women.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>HB455 Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments</u></b>	Rep. Candice Pierucci (R-Riverton)	Creates minimal standards for state school voucher program in response to reports of obvious misuse of voucher funds. Changes do little to address lack of oversight and transparency. More importantly, program remains an ineffective avenue for positive learning outcomes for Utah kids. Associated with request for \$40 million in new funding for the untested program, bringing the annual spending on vouchers up to more than \$120 million.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>

# OTHER BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Impact	Our Position	Fate of Bill
<b><u>SB72 Family Leave Requirements Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Nate Blouin (D-Salt Lake County)	Makes technical changes to the state insurance code and authorizes the sale of private family leave insurance.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SB73 Statewide Initiatives Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (R-South Jordan)	Creates new and unreasonable barriers to community members attempting to place proposals on the ballot for Utah voters to review and decide. Retaliatory action against the courts and members of the public who challenged Constitutional Amendments A and D, proposed by legislative leadership in 2024.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>SB333 Major Sporting Venue Financing Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Jerry Stevenson (R-Layton)	Creates new legal pathway for billionaires and private corporations to access public funding for private development near sites of “major sporting venues.” Does not explicitly apply to 2034 Olympic Games venues. Continues trend of siphoning money away from public education and proven programs that help children, to instead enrich the already extremely rich.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>SB37 Minimum Basic Tax Rate Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (R-South Jordan)	Reroutes local property tax revenue from schools to the state’s general fund for non-education uses, requiring the state to backfill school budgets with income tax dollars. Undermines local control, risks school funding stability, and obscures how taxpayer money is spent.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
<b><u>SB173 School Meal Amendments</u></b>	Sen. Luz Escamilla (D-Salt Lake)	Provides free breakfast and lunch to all public school students.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>FAILED</b>
<b><u>SJR02 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Statewide Initiatives</u></b>	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (R-South Jordan)	Raises threshold for a winning ballot measure from a simple majority to 60%. Yet another attempt to prevent members of the public from freely petitioning their own government through the ballot measure process.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>PASSED</b>



# MEDIA LINKS



**How the Kentucky Model Would Help Utah's Child Care Providers Help More Kids**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/4i7YfMI>



**In final minutes, Utah lawmakers ax commission meant to boost women's equality**  
Salt Lake Tribune  
<https://bit.ly/4Ik4P59>



**Utah Has a New Plan to Fix Childcare**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3DZDFjk>



**SB 221: Stand Up for Safe Child Care**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/4coHg75>



**Utah parents lose trust, feel ignored after legislature kills daycare bill**  
Mya Constantino  
<https://bit.ly/4ciTGxi>



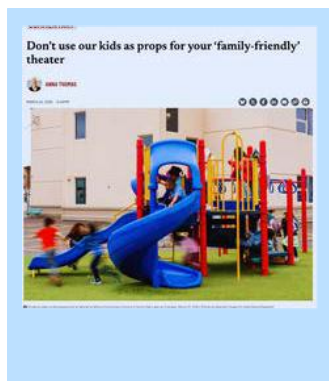
**Racist Rhetoric Won't Fix Utah's Child Care Crisis**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3XJXTEo>



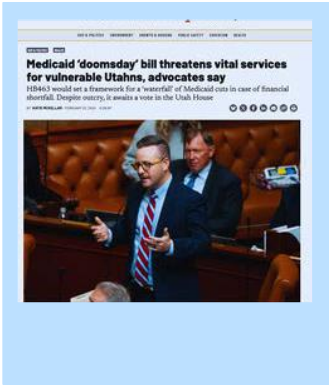
**What Happened With Child Care During the 2025 Legislative Session?**  
Voices For Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3Ebxw3p>



**Advocates rally for more child care funding in Utah**  
KSL News  
<https://bit.ly/3FTtqO7>



**Don't use our kids as props for your 'family-friendly' theater**  
Utah News Dispatch  
<https://utahnewsdispatch.com/2025/03/24/dont-use-our-kids-as-props-for-your-family-friendly-theater/>



**Medicaid 'doomsday' bill threatens vital services for vulnerable Utahns, advocates say.**  
Katie Mckellar  
<https://bit.ly/4j1Fw6p>



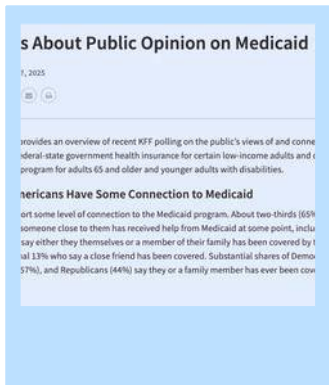
**Utah lawmakers might drop health insurance eligibility for children without legal status**  
KUER  
<https://bit.ly/3Em16mR>



**How Proposed Federal Medicaid Cuts Could Harm Utah Families**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3FZ3hxd>



**Preserve Medicaid for Utah Families: Vote NO on SB 257**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/43U5Tt8>



**5 Charts About Public Opinion on Medicaid**  
KFF  
<https://bit.ly/3E5qkWF>



**Support HB 30 The Indian Family Preservation Act**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3Eeh4zr>



**Utah tribal members rally for a bill to be heard in the Utah legislature**  
Fox 13 News  
<https://bit.ly/3XNzVbo>



**Utah lawmakers reject E-Verify expansion after outcry over workforce shortages**  
Deseret News  
<https://bit.ly/4jrjNER>



**Utah lawmakers recommend approval of bill boosting funds for students still learning English**  
KSL News  
<https://bit.ly/4lgohQl>



**House will take up emergency English language learner funding for Utah students**  
KUER  
<https://bit.ly/4iY6D1Z>





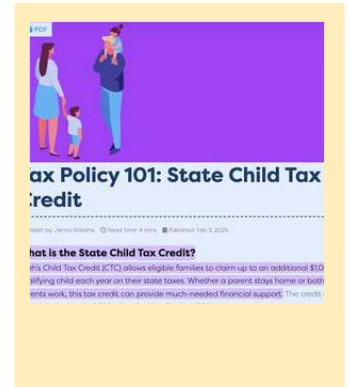
**Another Year, Another Tax Cut: Who Benefits?**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/42mbPpw>



**Tracking Utah's K-12 Education Funding**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3YM3JVF>



**Utah Legislature OKs another round of tax cuts, totaling \$1.4 billion in 5 years**  
Utah Disbatch  
<https://bit.ly/4cmf3h7>



**Tax Policy 101: State Child Tax Credit**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/4jkcChx>



**How to Strengthen Utah's Child Tax Credit in 2025**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/4lqEW3Q>



**Series: Vouchers and School Privatization in Utah**  
Voices for Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3EiAdQI>



**Property Taxes Fill the Gap**  
Voices For Utah Children  
<https://bit.ly/3FUxd5>



**Social Security tax to be cut for Utahns making \$90K or less, legislative leaders say**  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
<https://bit.ly/4ljRmKt>

