

## **House Health and Human Services Committee**

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

2/27/2026

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### **Bill: SCR 5 – Concurrent Resolution Directing PEHP Regarding Pain Medication**

Sponsor: Senator Weiler

Floor Sponsor: Representative Ward

**UASD Position: Support**

This resolution relates to non-opioid pain medication and state employee health coverage.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill directs the Public Employees Health Program (“PEHP”) to structure its coverage policies so that opioid prescriptions are not treated more favorably than non-opioid alternatives. The sponsor noted that PEHP estimates implementation of the proposed changes would cost approximately \$150,000 annually. Dr. Chad Duncan of Vertex Pharmaceuticals was part of the presentation and provided information about non-opioid pain medications.

Representative Fitismanu questioned the use of a Resolution for the measure. The sponsor clarified that Resolutions are typically used to direct state entities. Representative Hall questioned the referral process and the availability of alternative treatments. The sponsor explained that new medications are being developed and distributed that are comparably effective to opioids.

Calvin Cullimore, Chief Executive Officer of BioUtah, spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 12

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: SCR 5 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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