Dear Legislator,

On behalf of Utah’s dedicated public school teachers and their students, the Utah Education Association asks that you please oppose a special session on Utah tax reform until a firm plan for addressing the critical funding needs of public education can be publicly presented, openly discussed and fully vetted.

Teachers have looked to the tax reform process with great anticipation and hope for their students. In many ways, they see this as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, through this official tax reform process, to do something truly visionary for the students of Utah.

Our teachers have heard the promise that as the economy grows, so will investments in education. Unfortunately, current proposals do not keep that promise. They do little to GROW education investments and allow us to address critical student needs such as reducing class sizes, providing high-quality early learning opportunities and addressing our severe teacher shortage, just to name a few.

While we appreciate recognition that student enrollment growth and inflation must be a given in order to maintain status quo and we applaud efforts to ease legislative barriers our local school boards face in raising funds locally, no current plan ensures the sustainable, long-term, equitable and growing education resources our students so desperately need.

We urge you to oppose a special session to enact tax reform and continue the work to develop a plan that supports our students, our teachers and our schools.

Sincerely,
The UEA Legislative Team

- Heidi Matthews, UEA President, 801-266-4461, ext. 102, heidi@myUEA.org
- Renee Pinkney, UEA Vice President, 801-266-4461, ext. 105, renee@myUEA.org
- Brad Bartels, UEA Executive Director, 303-579-6791, brad.bartels@myUEA.org
- Jay Blain, UEA Director of Policy and Research, 801-641-5297, jay.blain@myUEA.org
- Chase Clyde, UEA Director of Government Relations and Political Action, 435-260-9760, chase.clyde@myUEA.org
- Sara Jones, UEA Director of Educational Excellence and Government Relations, 801-558-5500, sara.jones@myUEA.org