



Derrin R. Owens

Utah

State Senator, SD-027 (R)

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71

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

2026 UT Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote	Vote
1. Directs local education agencies to conduct "enhanced attendance tracking" of school-aged children and "identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism" who miss 10% or more days of instruction, whether or not "the absence was excused." Estimated cost per household: -\$0.03/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: Yes · SB58 · Passed 26–0 · 03/04/2026	✗
2. Allows a health provider to choose not to participate in certain activities that violate their "religious beliefs or conscience." Pro-Freedom: Yes · Cast: Yes · SB174 · Passed 22–7 · 03/02/2026	✓
3. Makes it unlawful to require the use of "programmable money," unless a "free, non-digital alternative" is offered, and prevents an issuer from denying transactions based on "environmental, social, or governance standards." Pro-Freedom: Yes · Cast: Yes · SB298 · Passed 25–1 · 02/27/2026	✓
4. Would create a new program for employer-sponsored, state-assisted childcare facilities. Estimated cost per household: -\$3.21/year. Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: No · SB248 · Passed 17–9 · 02/25/2026	✓
5. Would declare that the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, and the World Health Organization have no "power, jurisdiction, or legal authority" in Utah. Pro-Freedom: Yes · Cast: No · HB85 · Rejected 12–17 · 02/05/2026	✗
6. Abolishes the "right of action for alienation of affections." Pro-Freedom: No · Cast: Yes · SB109 · Passed 26–1 · 01/27/2026	✗

Scorecard Votes: 50%



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\$295,579

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 30, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Compulsory Government Education

SB58 directs local education agencies to conduct "enhanced attendance tracking" of school-aged children and "identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism" who miss 10% or more days of instruction, whether or not "the absence was excused."

Education is not the role of government—it is the responsibility of a child's parents or family. Parents have a fundamental right to educate their children freely, and schools can and should be privatized, without relying on public funds. If not dismantled, the government's monopoly on pre-K-12 education will continue to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling in favor of universal state-sponsored schooling. The best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education in the hands of the state. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to give up their hard-earned tax dollars for all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run school system

2. Conscience Exemptions for Health Providers

SB174 allows a health provider to choose not to participate in certain activities that violate their "religious beliefs or conscience."

This bill protects the rights of health providers who refuse to comply with illicit practices that destroy "life or limb," such as abortion, assisted suicide, and sex mutilation. Given that the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Utah ought to uphold the sanctity of life and conscience for every person. These "unalienable Rights" are retained by the people under the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment. The Constitution, not merely the Hippocratic Oath, obliges that physicians do "no harm or injustice" to patients.

3. Ban on ESG-aligned "Programmable Money"

SB298 makes it unlawful to require the use of "programmable money," unless a "free, non-digital alternative" is offered, and prevents an issuer from denying transactions based on "environmental, social, or governance standards."

This legislation thwarts dangerous plans to impose unconstitutional "programmable money" in Utah. Although Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution says that "No State shall...make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts," various forms of "programmable money" (e.g., Central Bank Digital Currencies, payment stablecoins, or tokenized bank deposits) now pose a significant threat to Americans' civil liberties. As "programmable money" has an inherent potential to restrict private and voluntary financial transactions, it is a perilous tool for "debanking," digital ID, other tyrannical means of controlling human behavior. In fact, "programmable money" can be integrated into, and abused on behalf of, the all-encompassing "woke" environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) movement, which seeks to implement a "social credit score" system. To keep Utah from becoming a full-fledged, intolerable surveillance state, where personal freedom is decimated, it is crucial that lawmakers restore sound money by adhering to the Constitution's monetary provisions.

4. Expanding State-funded Childcare

SB248 would create a new program for employer-sponsored, state-assisted childcare facilities.

Childcare is not the legitimate object of government. It is a function that belongs to the family, not the state. Utah has no business subsidizing childcare for anyone, especially private employers. Taxation in the name of "childcare" is neither just nor charitable. Further, this bill uses unjust forms of taxation (e.g., personal and corporate income taxes) to also reduce the cost of childcare tuition for non-employee "community members," many of whom have little or no tax liability, at the expense of others—resulting in more debt, dependency, and poverty. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were written to "promote the general Welfare" of all Americans, not "cradle-to-grave" or "nanny-state" policies that coerce reckless and discriminatory government spending.

5. Nullifying the United Nations

HB85 would declare that the United Nations (UN), the World Economic Forum (WEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have no "jurisdiction" in Utah.

The United States needs to withdraw from the entire UN system, including the WHO and the WEF. The UN poses one of the greatest threats to American sovereignty and our God-given rights. Since 1945, the UN has been a modern-day Tower of Babel. Its Charter is completely antithetical to the "Republican Form of Government," as it recognizes no authority higher than the state. Article VI, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution demands that "all Treaties" be subject to, and bound by, the limitations of the Constitution. The Constitution, written pursuant to the Declaration of Independence, was made for self-government under God—not secular, totalitarian world government. The state is not God, and the UN system is a false no-god. Utah should nullify the unconstitutional edicts of power-hungry globalist elites (e.g., Agenda 2030). "We the People" must do everything we can to *Get US Out!* of the UN.

6. Alienation of Affection

SB109 abolishes the "right of action for alienation of affections."

This bill removes civil liability for malicious interference in the marital relationship. Similar to "no-fault divorce" and the legalization of adultery, it permits a person to commit serious acts of injury against a spouse with impunity—thereby aiding and abetting the breaking of the marital covenant while denying victims due process of law. Innocent parties are left with no right to their day in court. It wrongly assumes that marriage is to be determined exclusively, even frivolously, by the government. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment do not render conjugal rights as meaningless. Marriage is ordained by God, not the state. The most sacred of all human institutions, marriage is a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman, whose one-flesh union serves as the foundation of the family. God-honoring, loving marriages are essential to

securing "the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity," but the fallout from the war on marriage and the family has been devastating. Utah has a duty to protect marriages and punish those responsible for wrecking them.