THIS BILL:

This legislation would create the Access Utah Promise Scholarship Program with the goal of increasing Utah's college-going rate. This scholarship is projected to reach 2-3 times more students than the Regents' scholarship, which this program would replace. The Access Utah Promise Scholarship is patterned after Dream Weber and SLCC Promise programs.

This scholarship would provide tuition and fees for a student's first four semesters, which includes 900 membership hours UTECH/USHE Applied Technology Schools. Both high school graduates and returning Adults with less than an associate's degree can apply for this award. The scholarship works on the "last-dollar in" principle, meaning it requires all other scholarship and aid opportunities be explored first.

WHY SUPPORT THIS BILL:

- **Access to education**- This scholarship would give more low-income students the chance to pursue higher education by providing them with financial resources.
- The scholarship will be prioritized based on ability to pay for college, meaning it helps those who need it most.
- 2-3 times more students may be reached with this scholarship, compared to the Regents' scholarship.

BACKGROUND:

Utah has a pipeline problem. The college-going rate for high school graduates is very low compared to other states in the nation. (National Center for Higher Education Management, 2018). However, 98% of jobs filled since 2012 have required some kind of postsecondary training. Because Utah has such low college-going rates, new solutions for encouraging students to obtain a higher degree are needed, such as scholarships for low-income students. Existing scholarships are often awarded to mid-to high income students who are also receiving other scholarships. This reduces the amount of scholarship funds available to low-income students to pursue a higher education.

RESOURCE