

UTRSOL WEEKLY

Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws

Week of September 28 – October 2, 2026

This week, we were accepted into the Utah Department of Corrections' advocacy stakeholder group, attended the Victim Services Commission's annual meeting, delivered a memorandum and public comment to the Utah State Board of Education, published new a new policy journalism piece, and continued building out our Chamber of Commerce. Here's the rundown.

COALITION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Utah Department of Corrections' Advocacy Stakeholder group approved our application to be seated at its monthly meetings beginning Tuesday, October 13. This gives UTRSOL a standing seat alongside other advocacy organizations to raise reentry and prison-policy priorities directly with UDC leadership on a regular basis. The Sex Offense Task Force (SOTF) declined our request to attend its quarterly SOTP provider training, because the content is specialized for those working directly with the offense population in a treatment or supervision role rather than a broader advocacy audience. While that request wasn't granted this round, it opened a constructive dialogue with Task Force leadership that we expect to build on.

We continued tracking the availability of reentry resource fairs across several Utah counties, as a few have quietly lapsed in recent months, including Cache, Box Elder, and Tooele Counties. We're looking at where UTRSOL might be able to help keep these events going. Although we did not get a chance to participate in the Weber County Community Reentry Coalition's annual Reentry Simulation event held over three days this week, we remain committed to supporting the Coalition's work and look forward to finding ways to take part in future events, so that the lived experience of our community is represented in how reentry is taught and understood. To that end, we are preparing an application to join the Coalition, subject to the scheduled November meeting and vote.

STATE AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT: VSC AND USBE

We attended the Victim Services Commission's annual meeting on September 30, where we observed discussion of the Commission's long-term funding study and its 2027 legislative planning process. In this process, we began researching alternative means of sustaining victim services funding, including approaches other states have taken, so that we can contribute constructive, evidence-based ideas as the Commission's work moves forward. That work is anchored in the 2026 Victim Services Study published by the Department of Criminal Justice and the Task Force established to implement its recommendations. We look forward to engaging constructively as that process unfolds.

Our engagement with the Utah State Board of Education continued this week, following public comment at the August board meeting on the Board's proposed amendment to the statute governing registrants' presence at school-sponsored activities, which the Board voted on September 4 to pursue with a legislative sponsor in 2027. Ahead of the October 1 meeting, we submitted Section I of a four-part analytical memorandum series examining the statutory framework of that proposal, with the remaining sections to follow at upcoming board meetings. On Thursday, October 1, UTRSOL delivered in-person public comment summarizing the memorandum's analysis and offering to work with USBE policy staff and General Counsel as the Board prepares its request.

NEWS FROM THE WIRE

We published a new piece on News From The Wire on Monday, September 28, titled "Utah's Black Box: An Unquantifiable Fear," examining how Utah's registry policy is repeatedly justified by public fear that no agency has actually measured. The piece looks at how barriers to reporting sexual assault leave a large unknown that can be invoked in legislative testimony, and it points to measures such as H.B. 89 during the 2026 legislative session, which bans polygraph tests for sexual assault survivors, and the restricted-reporting proposal in H.B. 459, which did not advance during the same session, as steps toward bringing that unknown into view. It makes the case that lawmakers should be able to rely on measured evidence rather than assumption when weighing changes to the registry.

UTRSOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: FIRST MEETUP PLANNED

Our new Chamber of Commerce continued to take shape this week, now standing at five founding member businesses spanning technology, transportation advocacy, food and beverage, and specialty manufacturing. We're finalizing plans for the Chamber's first in-person meetup, tentatively set for October 8, where founding members will meet face to face for the first time and begin shaping the group's ongoing structure.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, October 8 — UTRSOL Chamber of Commerce first General Meeting

Friday, October 9 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [Virtual]

- Email communications@utrsol.org or call 801-871-5215 to learn more

October

- October 13 — UDC Advocacy Stakeholders Group Meeting
- October 14 — Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH)
- October 21 — Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Hearing
- October 21 — Presentation to UDC's Second Chance Employer Network, The Hive

UTRSOL is an evidence-based policy research and advocacy organization. This newsletter is distributed to external partners, coalition members, and stakeholders to share updates on our research, legislative activities, and organizational initiatives.