



## Youth Leadership And Activism Conference A Stunning Success

On January 24th, the eve of the legislative session, several dozen high school students spent their Saturday learning about the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STPP), which pushes students into the criminal justice system, and basic activist skills to fight it. They trained on how to be a citizen lobbyists and were able to speak to present and former legislators: Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Representative Angela Romero, Senator Aaron Osmond, and former representative and current director of Criminal Justice Advisory Council, David Litvack. Students acted out real-life stories of students who had been harshly punished for minor misbehavior, such as writing a best friend's name on a desk. They also learned about their rights when facing school discipline, messaging, and how to write an op-ed.

In addition to learning about the STPP and how to be an activist, students were able to use their voices that day to speak up for themselves and their peers. They wrote letters to their representatives, they spoke to city council representatives during lunch, and they took part in the "whiteboard project," where they explained why they wanted to end the STPP and why education is important. You can see their messages by visiting the Youth Conference Folder on the ACLU of Utah's Facebook page or you can search #ylac15 on Twitter.



The Youth Leadership and Activism Conference was incredible; full of hope, passion, and energy. We appreciate the dynamic speakers and active participants and celebrate the youth activists in our community who planned this successful conference.



[Read an interview with one of the high school organizers for the conference and see more lively photos on page 6.](#)

## Utah is Ready for Criminal Justice Reform!

During this legislative session, one of the most pressing and exciting issues the ACLU of Utah is working on is pushing for a slate of criminal justice reform proposals. Representative Eric Hutchings and Senator Stuart Adams are sponsoring criminal justice reform legislation that is based on the 18 common-sense recommendations made by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice in their November 12, 2014 report, and we are working very hard to make sure it passes.

Taken together, these recommendations could save Utah about \$542 million over the next 20 years by averting nearly all the prison growth projected during that time period.

One example of savings is by re-directing funding into community-based treatment and



Rep. Eric Hutchings discusses his plan for criminal justice reform on February 9, 2015 at the State Capitol.

rehabilitative programs that work, instead of into more prison beds. At least these people won't be branded as "drug felons" for the rest

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# The Director's Chair



Karen McCreary, Executive Director

## From the Capitol to the Streets: Let's Reform the Police

Recent incidents from New York City to Ferguson to Salt Lake City and Saratoga Springs highlight the growing perception that something is dreadfully wrong with our policing systems. Statistics gathered by the FBI confirm that officer involved shootings have increased. The *Salt Lake Tribune's* Erin Alberty recently published an article concluding that officer involved shootings were the second most common type of homicide in Utah, second only to intimate partner violence. Hundreds of police departments across the country, including some in Utah, arrest black people at shockingly disproportionate rates. Moreover, we have witnessed local police departments increasing their deployment of SWAT teams for seemingly routine tasks such as serving search warrants, a factor in the increasing use of excessive and deadly force. These incidents and the resulting uproar provide Americans with an opportunity to change the culture of policing. The present culture has often led to mistrust between law enforcement and communities, particularly among people of color and low-income communities. Frequently the courts and internal systems of discipline have provided little or no public accountability for misbehavior or bad policy.

The ACLU of Utah has been working to improve and reform current policing practices. We promote solutions that build trust, improve

relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and advance a culture of transparency. To achieve these outcomes, we believe that the police must engage all community residents, including youth, to help define a role for police that takes into account the need for public safety and respects the rights of all. We need to move away from an "us versus them" policing approach to one that is community oriented.

In order to bridge the gap between the community and the police within that community, we need to have more information. Presently, there is no uniform statewide method to collect and report data about stops, frisks, searches, citations, arrests, excessive uses of forces, and justifiable homicide. Without such information, it is difficult to quantify problematic trends and practices. A uniform system to collect and report information across Utah will promote transparency and allow agencies and policy makers to spot and resolve problems.

The ACLU of Utah and its allies successfully worked to pass HB 185 last year, which requires Utah law enforcement agencies to produce reports whenever they forcibly enter a home or building, or deploy a SWAT team. The law requires that agencies collect and report on 16 different data points on an annual basis to the legislature. Utah became the second state in the nation to pass legislation requiring this type of law enforcement transparency. The ACLU of Utah was also instrumental in last year's successful passage of HB 70 to rein in the use of no-knock forcible entries by police, a victory we continue to work to build on this year.

For the interests of the community to be understood by the police that work within that community, we need lines of communication between civilians and agencies. Police departments in Utah do not have statewide standards governing how they receive and react to complaints from the public. Our forthcoming report *Opportunities for Trust Building: Overview and Recommendations for Our Law Enforcement's Public Complaint Process*

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## 2015 ACLU of Utah Board of Directors



**Top L-R:** Roderic Land, Barry Gomberg, Michael Weinholtz; **2nd row L-R:** Dianna Cannon, Gina Cornia, Bill Orchow, Danielle Hawkes, Nathan Hult, Larry Stevens; **3rd row L-R:** Chase Clyde, Cathleen Power, Erin Castro, Karen McCreary, Alexander McDonald; **Bottom L-R:** David Reymann, Jill Sheinberg, Forrest Crawford, Marian Edmonds-Allen, Heidi Chamorro

## The ACLU of Utah

The ACLU of Utah, chartered in 1958, operates through public education, legal advocacy, litigation, and lobbying at both the state and local levels to ensure the constitutional rights and freedoms of everyone living in or visiting Utah. Our work is based on those principals outlined in the Bill of Rights and our priorities include: Participatory Democracy; Racial Justice; Immigrants' Rights; Religious Liberty & Freedom of Belief; and Privacy & Technology. In addition, we continue our commitment to reform the Utah criminal justice system, protect the First Amendment, reproductive freedoms, and equality for all.

For more about the ACLU of Utah and our priorities please visit [www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org)

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Special thanks to XMission for their generous donation of Internet services







2014 was an incredible year and we are pleased to present our Annual Report detailing a year of civil liberties victories at the legislature and in the courts.

**With your support we have:**

- Passed some of the most progressive voting legislation in the country.
- Defended the rights of more than 1,200 married couples when the State threatened to invalidate those rights.
- Made our law enforcement more accountable and our communities safer.
- Helped make Utah the first state that protects both location information and electronic communications content from government access.

We hope you will enjoy perusing our report and learning about the work that your contributions help to make possible. These victories belong to you as much as they do to us. [Read the full report online at www.acluutah.org/about-us/annual-reports](http://www.acluutah.org/about-us/annual-reports)

## Top 10 Reasons to Support the ACLU of Utah

### Reason #10: Defending the Impoverished

Being poor shouldn't mean that you are at a disadvantage when facing criminal charges, but too often, it does. The system for providing criminal defense to people who can't afford a lawyer in Utah is fundamentally flawed, and county-by-county we fall short of what the Constitution requires. We fight for a well-designed and well-funded system of indigent defense in Utah, just as the Constitution of the United States requires.

### Reason #9: Pushing for Criminal Justice Reform

Over 2.3 million people are in American prisons – over half of these for nonviolent crimes. The ACLU of Utah is working on the front lines of criminal justice reform that will dramatically decrease unnecessary incarceration, diminishing the tremendous human cost and financial cost to society.

### Reason #8: Expanding the Right to Vote for All

The ACLU of Utah has worked tirelessly at the Utah State Legislature to protect voting rights in Utah. Last year, we successfully passed legislation establishing a pilot program for election-day registration in counties representing 74% of Utah's population. We will continue our work to ensure that the right to vote is only expanded and never curtailed.

### Reason #7: Protecting our Privacy

The ACLU of Utah worked hard to make Utah the first state to enact legislation that protects people from having police monitor their location information and the content of their electronic communications (from devices like cell phones and tablets), serving as a model for the rest of the country. We must continue to build statutory and legal protections to establish a 21st-Century Fourth Amendment that keeps up with technology to protect our privacy.

### Reason #6: Holding Police Accountable and Decreasing Police Militarization

In Utah and across the nation, deadly police shootings are on the rise. SWAT team raids are overused and put the life of both civilians and police at risk. Police are starting to use body-cams without clear policies to ensure that they are not just another means of mass surveillance. Police militarization, involving the funneling of military grade weapons and equipment to our police departments, has contributed to an increasing distrust of police forces. The ACLU is working on the state and national levels to reverse these dangerous trends.

### Reason #5: Defending Immigrants

We have always been a nation of immigrants, and today's immigrants are an integral part of American society. In many instances, immigrants and their children are fleeing from untenable economic and political situations. Too often, immigrants bear the brunt of punitive laws and excessive government practices, leading to results like prolonged detention and family separation. At the ACLU of Utah, we defend immigrants against unfair treatment and fight to uphold their constitutional rights.

### Reason #4: Advancing Racial Justice

Racial justice is a goal that we continue to strive for in Utah and as a nation. Though we have made progress, many problems of unequal treatment based on race persist. To name just one example, schools disproportionately funnel students of color into what we call the "School-to-Prison Pipeline," in which school practices and policies push students from the classroom into the criminal justice system. We work hard to move towards equity and justice.

### Reason #3: Successful Struggle for the Freedom to Marry

The freedom to marry for same-sex couples has finally come to Utah and most states across the nation. Now, we're waiting (and hoping) for the United States Supreme Court to make this fundamental right consistent across the country. Years of work by ACLU and its partners as well as increasing social acceptance of LGBTQ people have turned the tide in favor of the freedom to marry!

### Reason #2: Fighting Against Using Religion to Discriminate

As we push for full equality for LGBTQ people in housing, employment, and public accommodations on a statewide basis, there has been a pushback for "religious exemptions." We believe that freedom of religion must be protected and that the First Amendment and Utah law already strongly guard religion in Utah. However, when an "exemption" means that government officials can cite religion to pick and choose which members of the public to serve, or employers can claim that religious belief allows them to fire certain groups of people, we are not protecting religious freedom. We are allowing discrimination. We're working hard at the state Capitol to prevent such discrimination.

### Reason #1: Persistent Defense for You – Now and in the Future!

While politicians who support justice for all come and go, the ACLU of Utah has been here for nearly 60 years, with the national ACLU established nearly 100 years ago. Throughout this time, we have defended all people's civil liberties. We are here for the long haul.

Thank you all for your support of our work! With your help we ARE making a difference. Please consider a special gift today by using the enclosed remittance envelope and consider a bequest in your will. If you are interested in learning more about Legacy Giving, contact Amy at [aoconnor@acluutah.org](mailto:aoconnor@acluutah.org).



2015



After only a few weeks into the 2015 Utah legislative session, we find ourselves deep in the political whirlwind. Luckily we have a strong and dedicated team spending their days at the Capitol fighting against bills that would curtail your civil liberties, and advocating for new laws that will expand your freedoms.

This year, we are proactively advocating for bills to expand your liberties, including bills that would:

- Establish guidelines for the use of police body cams.
- Reign in the ability of law enforcement to access private prescription drug information without a warrant.
- Continue to push for transparency in the use of military equipment by police.
- Limit the use of forcible entry by police.
- Provide needed protections from discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Protect against discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Reform the criminal justice system in Utah, including lowering penalties for certain non-violent drug offenses.

As part of our advocacy efforts, we are also fighting against bills that would:

- Allow for discrimination based on religion.
- Reinstate the firing squad as a method of carrying out the death penalty.

Things move very rapidly during the legislative session.

To find the latest about our legislative agenda, and see which bills we are supporting or opposing, visit our website at [www.acluutah.org/legislation](http://www.acluutah.org/legislation)

While you are on the website you can sign up for our email list and receive action alerts and other important announcements.

You can also follow our lively and timely tweets @acluutah and “like” us on Facebook at [aclu.utah](http://aclu.utah).

## Utah is Ready for Criminal Justice Reform

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of their lives. So, not only are these reform measures more humane and cost effective, but they alter our overly punitive drug laws in a positive way.

Another recommendation is to change the penalty for simple drug possession from a Third Degree Felony (at least one to five years in prison) to a Class A Misdemeanor (up to one year in jail, and up to \$2,500 in fines). Clearly, this is a far cry from de-criminalization – but it’s a fair step in the right direction.

Raising their voices in public support for these reforms, over 100 Utahns gathered at the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 9, at the Rally for Reform event. Rally for Reform was organized by a diverse coalition of grassroots community groups including, Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness, Utah Prisoner Advocate Network, Utah Prison Support, NAMI Utah, The Disability Law Center, and the Drug Policy Project of Utah.

Speakers included people who have struggled with substance abuse disorders who have turned their lives around after serving time in prison, family members of those currently incarcerated, and legislators, including Rep. Eric Hutchings.

Over 100 Utahns participated in the Rally for Reform, February 9, 2015 at the State Capitol. More photos can be found on our website at [www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org)



### TAKE ACTION FOR REFORM!

The ACLU of Utah fully endorses this proposed criminal justice reform legislation and we need YOU to endorse it, too!

You can help push the reforms by writing your legislators to let them know that you want Utahns want to see real criminal justice reform, including common sense drug law reform, happen in 2015!

For more information and to take action visit our website at [www.acluutah.org/criminal-justice](http://www.acluutah.org/criminal-justice)



## Learning to be a Citizen Lobbyist



Over 90 Utah community members came to the Utah State Capitol on February 2, 2015, to learn how the Utah Legislature works and how to be involved. Attendees got updates about potential upcoming legislation related to civil liberties, government transparency, the criminal justice system, public health, LGBTQ equality and more! The presenters shared tips on how to contact elected officials and how citizens can ensure that their voices are heard throughout the legislative session. This free event was sponsored by the ACLU of Utah, Alliance for a Better Utah, Equality Utah, and Planned Parenthood Association of Utah.



# It's Time for True Non-Discrimination Protection For All Utahns

Recently, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced that it would support efforts to increase protections for members of the LGBT community in areas such as employment and housing. This is an important step forward in recognizing that our laws need to ensure that all people- regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity- are treated fairly and protected by the law.

There are no protections currently under Utah and federal law to ensure that LGBT individuals are not discriminated against in their places of employment or housing. Nor does Utah law protect members of the LGBT community from being turned away or discriminated against in public accommodations such as eating at a restaurant or being provided other publicly available services.

Therefore, it's encouraging to hear LDS leaders speak out about the need for greater



Utahns rally for equality at the State Capitol on March 12, 2014.

protections to ensure that all Utahns are treated fairly and equally.

But any implication that fairness and equality are pitted against privately held beliefs in need of further protection is a false dichotomy. Freedom of religion is one of our fundamental rights, and rightly enjoys strong protection in

our state and nation. Our Founding Fathers enshrined protection for religion in the Bill of Rights and Utah's constitution and state laws ensure robust religious freedom. In fact, Utah provides among the most stringent religious freedom protection of any state in the country, and Utah's nondiscrimination laws currently carve out the biggest exceptions for religion in the country. Among other safeguards for religion already enshrined in law is that government can never require a minister or religious leader to solemnize or recognize a marriage that falls outside of his or her faith tradition.

But the practice of one's faith can not give a green light to discriminate in the public sphere, such as to deny gay and transgender individuals health care, to discriminate against them in housing and employment, or to deny

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## From the Capitol to the Streets: Let's Reform the Police

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illustrates the troubling state of the community complaint processes throughout the State. If police agencies do not have clear and equitable policies to handle complaints, they are effectively shutting out the voice of the people they swore to protect and serve, and missing opportunities to correct officer misbehavior or bad department policy or practice.

Communication and cooperation between civilians and sworn officers is needed for public safety. However, of all the over 100 state law enforcement agencies in Utah, only Salt Lake City and West Valley City have formal civilian review boards. By providing input and oversight from community members outside the departments, civilian review boards promote community policing and ensure community engagement and dialogue. Utah lags far behind most states in this regard. We seek to ensure that police departments not only establish civilian review boards, but also empower those boards with substantial

authority, including subpoena power and independent disciplinary authority. The ACLU of Utah will be hosting several workshops on civilian review boards in the coming months to encourage the formation of these boards across our state. Police agencies can charge their civilian review boards to regularly analyze data on a range of police department practices to help identify systemic issues, such as potential unjustified racial disparities in enforcement practices. With the proper tools, civilian review boards can bring community oversight and trust of policing.

A final challenge is that law enforcement

agencies across Utah are starting to use body cameras without policies in place to ensure that the cameras are used to their full potential to protect rights, and not only as another tool for surveillance. Police departments should implement body-worn cameras with appropriate policies to ensure transparency, privacy protections, and uniform usage. The ACLU of Utah and its allies are working in this legislative session to establish such parameters in Utah law.

[For more on the ACLU of Utah's work to reform police practices visit our website at \[www.acluutah.org/police-practices\]\(http://www.acluutah.org/police-practices\)](#)

**RIGHT:** Protestors against police violence take over State Street in downtown Salt Lake City. **BOTTOM:** Utahns rally outside of the Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building in downtown Salt Lake City last summer to protest police killings in Utah. (Photos used with permission from [Utah Against Police Violence Facebook page](#))





# A Utah Youth Leader Speaks Out!

The following is an interview with one of the youth activists who helped plan the Youth Leadership and Activism Conference ( see page 1) *\*This is not a full transcript of the interview. Some words have been changed for clarity and to avoid repetitions.*

## Varesh Gorabi, Sophomore at Highland High School

### What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline and what most concerns you about this issue?

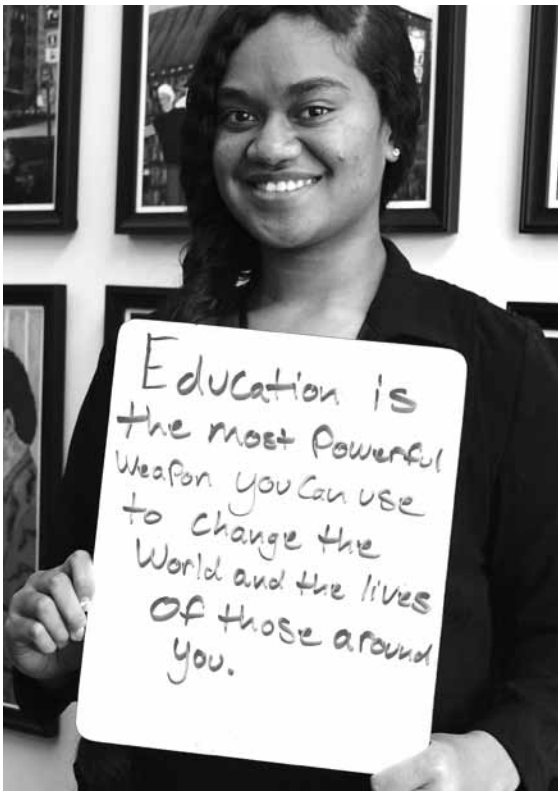
The School-to-Prison-Pipeline is the one way tunnel from learning at school to going to prison. It's shocking how fast one can tumble down this tunnel. Even though the school may not know this, one suspension can harm a child's life. The funny thing is, I was introduced to this topic just this year, but throughout this learning experience, I have remembered events in my childhood that I have never analyzed further. I remember this one kid, who we all called "troublemaker" in our minds, being suspended from school. We didn't know why, and we didn't question it further. "Troublemakers" get in trouble and that's that. I'm not saying this kid is now a "criminal", I don't know where he is now. But to think that one suspension could make a kid de-value himself or have negative effects later on...I am glad that there's research out, that it is now identified as an issue.

It hurts me that some behaviors "natural" to children or part of their learning the rights and wrongs, can be categorized as "evil" or "bad" and could get them suspended. Personally, my brother was always the different kid, the one who thought and acted differently. When a teacher grabbed his shoulder, he got scared and ran away. He was branded a "troublemaker" by the teachers. My point is, labels given to young students can really have an effect on their self-esteem.



### Why did you want to get involved with organizing the Youth Leadership and Activism Conference?

I feel like when we're young, little students in elementary or middle school, we don't really have a voice. Or at least that's what I felt. Everyone should know how to make their voice count in this world. Youth especially. I wanted to empower youth like myself. Alone, you don't know that you can be an activist, but when someone tells you that you can, and people will actually listen to what you have to say, that's empowering.



To read the full interview, see more photos, and find out more about this conference and the ACLU of Utah's work to end the School-to-Prison Pipeline visit our website at [www.acluutah.org/student-rights](http://www.acluutah.org/student-rights)

## It's Time for True Non-Discrimination Protection For All Utahns

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LGBTQ individuals public accommodations and services. Calls for similar accommodations were rejected in connection with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. At that time, many proclaimed that serving African-Americans in restaurants or allowing individuals of different races to attend the same schools contravened their religious beliefs. Courts, however, clearly rejected these defenses, reminding us that there is no absolute right to exercise and practice such beliefs in disregard of the rights and well being of others.

Arguments for exceptions to non-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people that were rejected in the context of laws protecting racial minorities must rest on the proposition that ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is different and less important than the interest in ending race discrimination. We refuse to accept that proposition. Equality means that gay and transgender people should have full protection in their places of work and in their housing, and in the businesses that serve the public. These protections should be on par with those set forth in our current Utah anti-discrimination and public accommodation laws

with respect to race, gender, religion and other categories.

In its statement, the LDS church calls for a balanced approach. Religion may be freely

practiced, and our current laws bolster and protect that freedom. What remains vulnerable is one's right to live, work, and participate in the community free from discrimination based on one's gender or sexuality. It is time for Utahns to extend the non-discrimination protection that is needed.

For more about the ACLU of Utah's work on Equality and Equal Protection for all visit [www.acluutah.org/equal-protection](http://www.acluutah.org/equal-protection)



**POINT.  
CLICK.  
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AWESOME.**

The ACLU of Utah is excited to take part in the 3rd annual Love UT Give UT. It will be the biggest day of giving across the state, and it is your chance to make a real impact by donating to our work, as well as helping to support other great non-profits.

## A 24 hour online fundraising event on March 26, 2015

Be sure to keep up with the ACLU of Utah's participation in the Love UT Give UT campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and at [www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org) throughout the month of March! Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues about this unprecedented chance to make a difference!



# Victory! 10th Circuit Protects Free Speech on Utah State Roads



Photo from iMatter Utah website [www.imatterutah.org](http://www.imatterutah.org)

On December 22, 2014, in a big victory for First Amendment rights, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Utah Department of Transportation’s insurance and indemnification requirements for permits to march on state roads violate the constitution and cannot be enforced.

The case, called *iMatter v. UDOT*, was brought by groups and individuals, many of them high schoolers, who planned several marches on State Street in Salt Lake City to raise awareness of and promote solutions to climate change. Though the march organizers obtained event permits from Salt Lake City, they also needed permission from UDOT, since State Street is a state road. UDOT, in turn, required that anyone seeking a permit to march on a state road obtain a general insurance policy for the event with \$1 million per incident and \$2 million aggregate coverage. UDOT also required organizers to sign indemnification agreements to protect UDOT from any lawsuit related to the event. These policies would have forced organizers to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for private insurance and exposed them to unknown amounts of costs to defend UDOT from potential lawsuits. These costs and risks deterred organizers from marching on State Street. On two occasions, organizers decided to hold marches on the sidewalk along State Street, while other events were cancelled. The plaintiffs, represented by the ACLU of Utah and the Utah Legal Clinic, brought suit in 2011 to challenge UDOT’s requirements. In late 2013, the federal district court in Utah struck down the requirements, explaining that for various reasons, they violated the First Amendment.

The State appealed, sending the case to the Tenth Circuit in Denver. (The arguments before the Tenth Circuit were covered in a travelogue in our last newsletter.)

The Tenth Circuit upheld the district court’s decision. The court explained that when a government policy burdens free speech, the First Amendment requires that the policy must be narrowly tailored to serve a government interest. The insurance and indemnity requirements were not narrowly tailored. Among other things, the Tenth Circuit reasoned that the First Amendment prevents parade organizers from liability for damages done by third parties out of their control, but the insurance prerequisite required organizers to protect the State against such damages. The court also pointed out that in most, if not all cases, the State will be protected from liability for free speech events by governmental immunity and by the ability to bring lawsuits. The court also rejected the State’s argument that UDOT’s requirements were narrowly tailored because organizers could have avoided them by marching on the sidewalk along State Street instead of on State Street.

We are thrilled with the Tenth Circuit’s decision. It puts governments on further notice that they must use great caution when they consider policies that make it more difficult for people to express themselves in a public forum. With this victory in hand and these requirements struck down, we hope to see more people “taking it to the streets” in Utah!  
[You can find out more about this case on our website at \[www.acluutah.org/legal-work/current-cases\]\(http://www.acluutah.org/legal-work/current-cases\)](http://www.acluutah.org/legal-work/current-cases)

# ACLU of Utah Critical of Utah’s Acting As Plaintiff in Lawsuit Seeking to Overturn Relief for Immigrants

The ACLU of Utah is extremely disappointed that the name of the State of Utah has been lent as a plaintiff to a lawsuit that seeks the deportation of “Dreamers” and the parents of United States citizens and legal permanent residents. Specifically, the suit seeks to force an end to programs known as DACA, which grants relief to certain immigrants who arrived to the United States as children, and DAPA, which grants relief to immigrant parents of United States citizens and legal permanent residents.

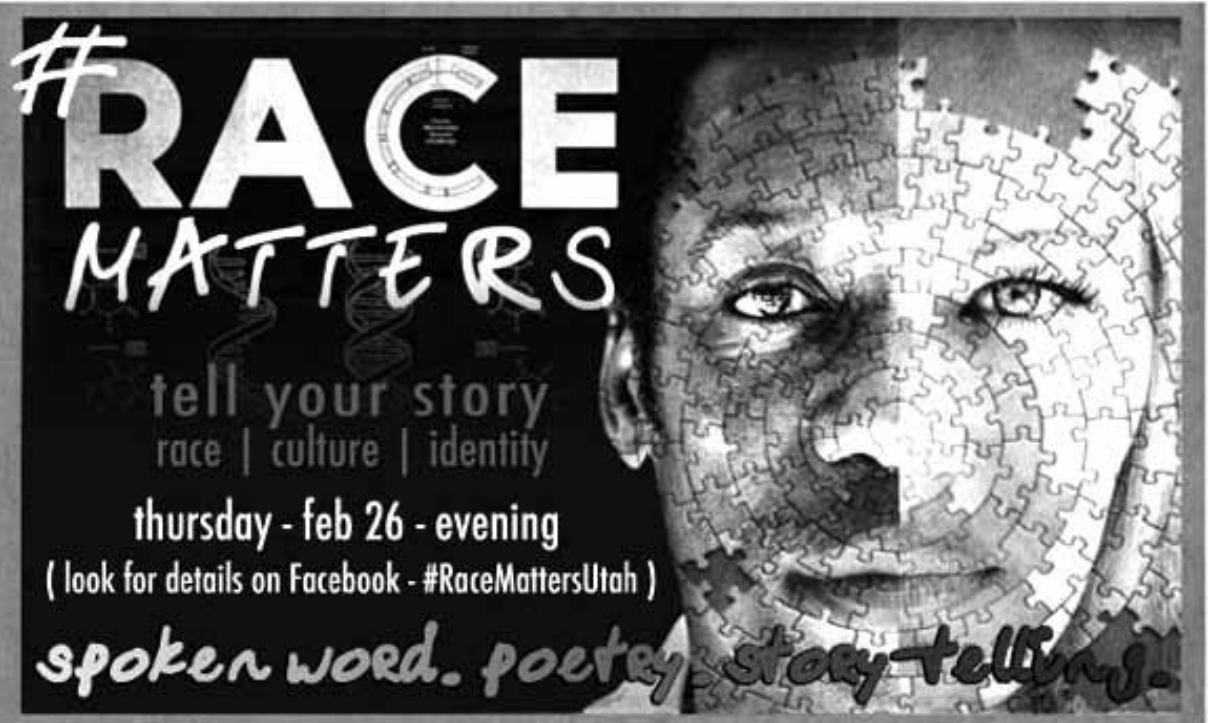
The decision for Utah to join this lawsuit directly contradicts the spirit of the Utah Compact and fails to live up to our shared Utah values that treasure children and family togetherness. In the Utah Compact, signed in 2010, hundreds of community, business and religious leaders committed to several guiding principles in approaching immigration issues, including:

1. Families: Stating opposition to policies that unnecessarily separate families.
2. Economy: Recognition of the economic role of immigrants. Advocates support of free market policies to maximize individual freedom and opportunity.
3. A Free Society: Recognition that immigrants are part of society. States the need for a “humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion.”

Since embracing these laudable principles, Utahns have made significant progress in choosing to embrace our immigrant neighbors as members of our communities. We have worked to support families, opposing policies that unnecessarily separate parents from their children, and aunts and uncles and cousins from one another. We have also recognized the important economic role that immigrants play in keeping Utah’s economy vibrant and strong. Proudly, we have strived for a humane approach to the reality that immigrants are a vital part of our state and society. We celebrate that our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion continues to undergird our lives as Utahns in 2014.

Utah’s elected officials should embrace the President’s grants of relief to certain immigrants as an opportunity to better integrate immigrants into our communities and accomplish some of what Utah’s legislature has been unable to accomplish by acting on its own. For example, Utah’s guest-worker legislation, which similarly intended to get immigrants already living and working in Utah working legally on the books, has never been implemented because only the federal government has the power to grant work authorization.

For more on the ACLU of Utah’s work to protect Immigrants’ Rights visit [www.acluutah.org/immigrants-rights](http://www.acluutah.org/immigrants-rights)



**We want to hear your stories and experiences dealing with race, culture & identity in Utah. FREE & open to the public.** Feb. 26, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Sugar Space Studio for the Arts at River District 130 S. 800 West, SLC. Organized by: Racially Just Utah, Raise Your Pen Coalition, The ACLU of Utah, Inclusion Center for Community and Justice, and Salt Lake City Mayor’s Office of Diversity & Human Rights. More information at [www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org)



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## Save the Date! May 15, 2015

“This is the Place...For Civil Liberties”

**ACLU of Utah Bill of Rights  
Breakfast Celebration**

7:45 a.m. at the Rice Eccles Stadium Tower  
at the University of Utah

Join us on Friday, May 15, 2015 for the celebration of Utah, Utahns, and Civil Liberties (yes these things **DO** go together)! This breakfast celebration is FREE (so are the mimosas and Bloody Marys) and open to all who would like to attend.

**Additional details will be posted at  
[www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org) in March.**

To RSVP email [aclu@acluutah.org](mailto:aclu@acluutah.org) or call (801) 521-9862 ext. 101

If you would like to be a **SPONSOR** or a **TABLE CAPTAIN**, please contact Rose Maizner at [rmaizner@acluutah.org](mailto:rmaizner@acluutah.org)