

HR 1967

2004

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution urging the United States Congress to  
3 reevaluate the requirements of the No Child Left Behind  
4 Act and to fund the authorized levels required by the act.  
5

6 WHEREAS, Florida led the nation in school reform when, in  
7 1990, the Legislature passed what was popularly known as  
8 "Blueprint 2000," a system of school reform and accountability,  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Blueprint 2000 called for the establishment of  
11 goals for K-12 education, high standards of achievement,  
12 development of a curriculum based on the standards, and an  
13 assessment system to ensure student learning progress and school  
14 accountability, and

15 WHEREAS, Florida has witnessed tremendous educational gains  
16 among its students as a result of the efforts of its students,  
17 teachers, parents, schools, and communities as an outcome of the  
18 implementation of the school reform and accountability system  
19 and,

20 WHEREAS, in 2001 the Congress of the United States enacted  
21 and President Bush later signed into law the "No Child Left  
22 Behind Act," an act designed to ensure accountability of  
23 America's schools for the academic success of our students,  
24 especially those from minority groups, those with disabilities,  
25 and those with limited English proficiency, and

26 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act represents one of the  
27 most sweeping federal intrusions into state and local control of  
28 education and disregards the time-honored American principle of  
29 balanced federalism and respect for state and local

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30 prerogatives, especially in education, and

31 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act mandates that all  
 32 schools attain adequate yearly progress toward the goal of 100  
 33 percent student proficiency in reading, math, language arts, and  
 34 science by the 2013-2014 school year, and

35 WHEREAS, most of the schools deemed as performing well  
 36 under Florida's system were determined to be deficient under the  
 37 No Child Left Behind Act, and

38 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act has been determined  
 39 to be a tremendous unfunded mandate during a time of economic  
 40 challenges in the state and funding cutbacks in public education  
 41 budgets, NOW, THEREFORE,

42  
 43 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 44 Florida:

45  
 46 That the House of Representatives, on behalf of the people  
 47 of the State of Florida and its system of public elementary and  
 48 secondary school education, respectfully requests the President  
 49 and Congress of the United States to hold harmless those states  
 50 which, as a result of their own educational accountability  
 51 systems, meet or exceed the requirements of the No Child Left  
 52 Behind Act.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal funding be provided in  
 54 amounts consistent with the levels authorized in the No Child  
 55 Left Behind Act for education programs and expanded information  
 56 systems needed to accurately reflect student, school, and  
 57 school-district performance and professional development  
 58 training necessary for teachers.

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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate methods of  
60 assessment be authorized for students who are not proficient in  
61 English and students with disabilities.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an alternative methodology be  
63 allowed for determining adequate yearly progress targets and  
64 progress of students who are not proficient in English and  
65 students with disabilities.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that flexibility be allowed in  
67 calculating adequate yearly progress for students belonging to  
68 multiple groups and subgroups.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current law, including any  
70 revisions thereof, recognizes that under our federal system of  
71 government education is primarily a state and local  
72 responsibility.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State send  
74 copies of this resolution to the Honorable George W. Bush,  
75 President of the United States, the President of the United  
76 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
77 Representatives, the members of the Florida Congressional  
78 Delegation, the United States House of Representatives Committee  
79 on Education and the Workforce, and the United States Senate  
80 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.