

HM877

2005

House Memorial

1
2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to reevaluate the requirements of the No Child
4 Left Behind Act and to fund the levels authorized in the
5 act.

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

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

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

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

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

HM877

2005

31 prerogatives, especially in education, and

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

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

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

43

44 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45

46 That the Congress of the United States is requested to hold
 47 harmless those states that, as a result of their own educational
 48 accountability systems, meet or exceed the requirements of the
 49 No Child Left Behind Act.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
 51 States is requested to provide federal funding in amounts
 52 consistent with the levels authorized in the No Child Left
 53 Behind Act for education programs and expanded information
 54 systems needed to accurately reflect student, school, and school
 55 district performance and professional development training
 56 necessary for teachers.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
 58 States is requested to authorize appropriate methods of
 59 assessment for students who are not proficient in English and
 60 students with disabilities.

HM877

2005

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
62 States is requested to allow an alternative methodology for
63 determining adequate yearly progress targets and progress of
64 students who are not proficient in English and students with
65 disabilities.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
67 States is requested to allow flexibility in calculating adequate
68 yearly progress for students belonging to multiple groups and
69 subgroups.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
71 States is requested to recognize, through law and revisions
72 thereto, that our federal system of government education is
73 primarily a state and local responsibility.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
75 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
76 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
77 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
78 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.