

HM 315

2007

## 1 House Memorial

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

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30 balanced federalism and respect for state and local  
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 of school accountability were determined  
38 to be deficient under the 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 if a state is not held  
51 harmless, the Congress of the United States is requested to  
52 provide federal funding in amounts consistent with the levels  
53 authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act for education  
54 programs and expanded information systems needed to accurately  
55 reflect student, school, and school district performance and  
56 professional development training necessary for teachers.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United  
58 States is requested to authorize appropriate methods of

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59 | assessment for students who are not proficient in English and  
60 | students with disabilities.

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.