

HM 7027

2017

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to establish block grant funding for
4 Title I funds and IDEA Part B funds and discontinue
5 federal education mandates requiring certain actions
6 in order to maintain federal funding eligibility.
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8 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recognizes that the
9 state's reliance on federal funds containing stipulations and
10 restrictions limits our ability to be responsive to the needs of
11 our citizens, and

12 WHEREAS, the state's dependency on federal funds has
13 diminished our sovereignty and skewed our budget priorities, and

14 WHEREAS, maintenance-of-effort requirements prevent the
15 state from providing public education in a more efficient or
16 cost-effective way, and

17 WHEREAS, the state is unable to reduce burdensome
18 regulations because such regulations are necessary to
19 demonstrate compliance with federal programs, and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has
21 placed conditions on the state's Title I grant award and has
22 threatened to place conditions on the state's IDEA Part B grant
23 award, and

HM 7027

2017

24 WHEREAS, less federal control would permit the state and
 25 local school districts to find ways to operate programs in a
 26 more economically efficient manner, and

27 WHEREAS, providing federal funds through block grants would
 28 provide the state with greater flexibility to meet the needs of
 29 its citizens, and

30 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, which is directly
 31 accountable to the citizens of Florida, is the appropriate body
 32 to govern public education free from any pressure from
 33 politically unaccountable agencies in Washington D.C., NOW,
 34 THEREFORE,

35
 36 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 38 (1) That the Congress of the United States is urged to end
 39 all current, and prohibit any further, interference by the
 40 United States Department of Education with respect to public
 41 school governance;

42 (2) That to improve the educational outcomes of children
 43 from disadvantaged families, Title I funds should be provided as
 44 a block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to
 45 develop innovative solutions responsive to the educational needs
 46 of its students;

47 (3) That to improve the educational outcomes of students
 48 with disabilities, IDEA Part B funds should be provided as a

HM 7027

2017

49 | block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to expand
50 | educational options for students with disabilities;

51 | (4) That this memorial serves as a notice and demand for
52 | the prohibition of federal programs that incentivize states to
53 | take certain actions in order to maintain federal funding; and

54 | (5) That this memorial serves as notice to the Congress of
55 | the United States that it is the duty of the Florida Legislature
56 | to exercise its constitutional authority over public education.

57 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
58 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
59 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
60 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
61 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.