
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8029

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators McDonald and Oke

Read first time 02/03/98. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE SLADE
5 GORTON, UNITED STATES SENATOR, AND TO THE HONORABLE PATTY MURRAY,
6 UNITED STATES SENATOR:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United
11 States gives to the states those rights not enumerated in the
12 Constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, It is the paramount duty of the State of Washington to
14 provide for the education of the children of Washington State, as
15 enumerated through the Constitution of the State of Washington, a right
16 not given to the Congress of the United States, nor bureaucrats of the
17 United States Department of Education; and

18 WHEREAS, The responsibility for providing education services to the
19 children of Washington State rests with locally elected members of
20 school district boards of directors, whose charge, through
21 representative government, is to establish education priorities and

1 goals that meet the needs of the students in their local communities;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Each local school district faces unique challenges in
4 meeting the education needs of their students, and that such needs are
5 different not only from district to district but also more clearly from
6 state to state; and

7 WHEREAS, The efforts of local school districts to attain student
8 achievement goals and respond to the changing needs of their
9 communities are inhibited by rigid program requirements that force
10 district compliance in order to access or maintain program funds. Such
11 requirements fail to recognize the unique needs of local communities
12 and disregard the education priorities and goals established at the
13 local level; and

14 WHEREAS, Increasing federal involvement in the delivery of
15 education services restricts the ability of local districts to develop
16 innovative programs by forcing a one-size-fits-all approach applicable
17 to all states and all communities, regardless of individual need; and

18 WHEREAS, Federal efforts to impact local education decisions have
19 led to the creation of hundreds of different programs that attempt to
20 centralize education through strict adherence to onerous and
21 unwarranted regulations; and

22 WHEREAS, Compliance with the differing regulatory requirements of
23 this vast number of education programs, unduly redirects up to thirty
24 percent of certain program funds from classroom services to fuel the
25 education bureaucracy; and

26 WHEREAS, The dollars wasted on program compliance requirements and
27 administration could better be used for direct classroom services to
28 students in order to improve student achievement; and

29 WHEREAS, The efforts of the Honorable Slade Gorton, United States
30 Senator, would consolidate the vast number of programs funded by the
31 federal government and block grant the funds for those programs to
32 local school districts, to determine locally which education services
33 are of most benefit to their students, and soundly affirm the efforts
34 of school boards to fulfill the education goals of their local
35 communities; and

36 WHEREAS, The amendment clearly establishes the right of the states
37 to provide education services to the children within its borders and to
38 establish those education priorities most desired within their state;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
2 President of the United States and members of the United States
3 Congress reconsider, and support through adoption, the amendment by the
4 Honorable Slade Gorton, United States Senator, that would consolidate
5 a vast number of federal education programs and block grant funds for
6 those programs directly to school districts in support of local control
7 of education decisions, locally determined education priorities,
8 reduced education bureaucracy and ultimately more money devoted to
9 direct student services in our classrooms.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
11 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
12 United States, the Honorable Slade Gorton, United States Senator, the
13 Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senator, the President of the
14 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
15 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

--- END ---