
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8038

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Pridemore, Kohl-Welles, Shin, Berkey, Weinstein, Kline and Rasmussen; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/26/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, Washington State supports, believes in, and pursues the
9 goal of No Child Left Behind, all students achieving at high levels;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The state welcomes the additional support No Child Left
12 Behind has brought to focus on quality education, the improvements
13 needed to reach all children, and the urgency nationwide to close
14 achievement gaps; and

15 WHEREAS, The state supports a feasible and fair accountability
16 system; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington State has attained approval and is in
18 compliance with the requirements provided in the regulations; and

19 WHEREAS, There are several major areas in regulations and law, that

1 if improved, will support successful implementation of No Child Left
2 Behind; and

3 WHEREAS, Students with limited English proficiency are in their
4 program because they cannot speak, read, or write English and therefore
5 need more appropriate measures for accountability; and

6 WHEREAS, All students, all schools, and all districts do not
7 improve on a uniform basis across any state, and Washington State's
8 former state accountability goals along with the required state uniform
9 bar would provide a more educationally sound model; and

10 WHEREAS, The act imposes a significant testing burden on states,
11 schools, and districts and unless appropriate federal funding is
12 provided for administering and scoring quality large scale assessments
13 in the new grade levels required, states should be allowed to continue
14 to assess students annually in selected grades in elementary schools,
15 middle schools, and high schools and even if funding is provided for
16 these assessments in the new grade levels, states should be able to use
17 that funding to assess students in a variety of ways that would inform
18 improvements in instruction but would not have to meet the extensive
19 technical standards now required; and

20 WHEREAS, The act imposes significant costs on the state and local
21 school districts, teachers, and paraprofessionals; and

22 WHEREAS, These costs include the administration of newly required
23 assessments, and the costs of staff development, certification
24 upgrades, and coursework;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
26 President and Congress of the United States work together with state
27 legislatures and the United States Department of Education to raise
28 authorized funding levels of the No Child Left Behind Act funding to
29 cover a substantial percentage of the costs that states and districts
30 will incur to carry out these recommendations, and fully fund the law
31 at those levels without reducing expenditures for other education
32 programs and to improve language in the Act and regulations concerning
33 its implementation, to make improvements to address the issues raised
34 in this Memorial, and to grant the time, flexibility, and changes that
35 will ensure successful nationwide implementation of the No Child Left
36 Behind Act.

37 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
38 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United

1 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
3 Washington.

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