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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4015

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Ormsby, Priest, Fromhold, Orcutt, Sells, Hankins  
and Hasegawa

Read first time . Referred to .

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, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
5            DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

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

9            WHEREAS, Washington state supports, believes in, and pursues the  
10           goal of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is that all students will  
11           achieve at high levels; and

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

15           WHEREAS, One of the key goals of the No Child Left Behind Act was  
16           to place a "highly qualified" teacher in every classroom to ensure  
17           academic success of students; and

18           WHEREAS, The No Child Left Behind Act defines a highly qualified  
19           teacher as one who holds at least a bachelor's degree and has

1 demonstrated subject matter competence in each academic subject area in  
2 which the teacher teaches; and

3 WHEREAS, There are growing numbers of teacher shortage areas,  
4 especially in high need technical fields; and

5 WHEREAS, Career and technical education teachers are often hired  
6 from industries in which a bachelor's degree is not the preferred level  
7 of certification; and

8 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature passed legislation in  
9 2006 that allows for credit for core academic subjects learned through  
10 career and technical education, but if the teacher does not have a  
11 bachelor's degree, the district must report them to parents as "not  
12 highly qualified"; and

13 WHEREAS, The current definition of "highly qualified" places career  
14 and technical education industry teachers at a disadvantage in school  
15 districts; and

16 WHEREAS, Career and technical education teachers from industry are  
17 in fact "highly qualified" to provide students with both the academic  
18 and technical education they need to be successful;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
20 President and Congress make a positive change in the definition of  
21 highly qualified teachers under the No Child Left Behind Act to include  
22 career and technical teachers who come to the teaching profession  
23 directly from industry.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
25 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
26 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
27 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of  
28 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of  
29 Education.

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