

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4711, by Representatives Santos, Zahn, Stearns, Ryu, Parshley, Duerr, Taylor, Salahuddin, Leavitt, Callan, Couture, Kloba, Ybarra, Nance, Richards, Keaton, Goodman, Barnard, Hall, Paul, Hill, Engell, Thai, Thomas, and Stuebe

1       WHEREAS, On November 29, 1975, the United States enacted the  
2 Education for All Handicapped Children act, marking a historic  
3 commitment to children with disabilities and ensuring their right to  
4 a free, appropriate public education; and

5       WHEREAS, This civil rights measure established and enshrined  
6 fundamental principles which continue to shape the way children with  
7 disabilities and their families interact with the public education  
8 systems in the United States; and

9       WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the law was renamed the Individuals with  
10 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and broadened to serve more  
11 students with disabilities, to strengthen access to general education  
12 curriculum, and to increase parent and family rights to mediation in  
13 a grievance; and

14       WHEREAS, Since its inception, IDEA has provided millions of  
15 students nationwide, including more than 140,000 students across  
16 Washington state, with greater inclusion and educational  
17 opportunities each year; and

18       WHEREAS, Washington continues to advance the spirit and  
19 requirements of IDEA through the work of families, educators,  
20 related-service providers, school districts, tribes, state agencies,  
21 and disability rights advocates who strive every day to support the  
22 growth, dignity, and potential of each student; and

1       WHEREAS, The 50th anniversary of IDEA provides an important  
2 opportunity to recognize the profound impact of this landmark civil  
3 rights law, to honor the individuals and communities who uphold its  
4 promise, and to reaffirm the importance of providing an inclusive,  
5 accessible, and high-quality education for all learners; and

6       WHEREAS, Washington state remains dedicated to strengthening  
7 equitable educational practices, expanding access to services, and  
8 ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to learn,  
9 participate, and thrive in our schools and communities without  
10 discrimination based on one's disability;

11       NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of  
12 Representatives celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Individuals  
13 with Disabilities Education Act and encourages all Washingtonians to  
14 join in celebrating the contributions of individuals with  
15 disabilities.

--- END ---