
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4024

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Stevens, Casada, Talcott, Fuhrman, Van Luven, Tate, Mielke, Sheahan, Ballard, Sehlin, Cooke, Lisk, Thomas, Schoesler, Chandler and Reams

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 TO THE HONORABLE MIKE LOWRY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,
2 THE HONORABLE JUDITH A. BILLINGS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
3 AND THE CHAIR, WASHINGTON COMMISSION ON STUDENT LEARNING:

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

7 WHEREAS, There is a national consensus that public education in our
8 state and nation is often not adequate to prepare our students for
9 attaining productive and independent lives in the 21st Century; and

10 WHEREAS, Logic, common sense, and experience mandate that we
11 transmit to upcoming generations the knowledge of the past as the
12 lessons of history create a perspective on human existence and an
13 understanding of the world in which we live ... "To know nothing of
14 what happened before you were born is to remain forever a child" ; and

15 WHEREAS, We must ensure that our children are given a meaningful
16 opportunity to be grounded in the knowledge, understanding, and
17 appreciation of our culture and those ideas and events that produced
18 the birth of our country and its rise to becoming the greatest nation
19 in the world ... "A popular Government, without popular information, or
20 the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy,
21 or perhaps, both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a

1 people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the
2 power which knowledge gives."; and

3 WHEREAS, The "restructuring or "reforming" of our schools, using
4 experimental programs that have not been proven to be cost-effective
5 and beneficial in creating a literate society, can defeat the true
6 reform of education called for by parents and other citizens and prove
7 an unwise expenditure of limited tax dollars; and

8 WHEREAS, Consideration of scholarly, scientific research, and
9 schools with a proven record of excellence, can lead us to responsible,
10 valid decisions on education reform; and

11 WHEREAS, An adequate curriculum should include the implicit
12 teaching of:

13 (1) Self-reliance, self-discipline, and respect for self and
14 others;

15 (2) Personal responsibility;

16 (3) Good citizenship;

17 (4) Good character;

18 (5) Respect for, and obedience to, legitimate authority;

19 (6) The importance of the work ethic and integrity in achieving
20 personal goals;

21 (7) The existence of absolute values of right and wrong;

22 (8) Total abstinence from destructive behaviors;

23 (9) The importance of the family as the basis of society; and

24 (10) The importance of establishing a stable marriage before
25 childbearing; and

26 WHEREAS, An adequate curriculum should include the explicit
27 teaching of:

28 (1) A solid core academic curriculum that can truly be described as
29 being rich in content, tough, solid, and stringent;

30 (2) Reading skills taught using the intensive phonics method, a
31 method that research has proven best develops reading literacy and
32 dramatically decreases the need for remediation;

33 (3) Reading comprehension using selections that are challenging and
34 exciting with compelling and appropriate narrative, i.e., myths,
35 fables, tales of heroes, drama, prose, poetry, as well as examples of
36 graceful and elegant use of the English language;

37 (4) Classical literature, which embodies the wisdom of the ages and
38 teaches our cultural heritage;

39 (5) Essay and theme writing;

1 (6) Penmanship;

2 (7) Basic arithmetic skills with an emphasis on mental and written
3 computation and memorization as well strategies for solving complicated
4 math problems;

5 (8) Math and the sciences with basic concepts taught in the
6 elementary grades;

7 (9) Geography, beginning with the United States;

8 (10) History and civics including American history, Western
9 civilization, principles of American democracy, and world history;

10 (11) Economics, with an emphasis on the benefits of the free market
11 economic system in comparison to other economic systems;

12 (12) Foreign languages;

13 (13) Computer literacy;

14 (14) Fine arts; and

15 (15) Physical education, fitness, and health; and

16 WHEREAS, Our goal is "To make the best that has been thought and
17 known in the world current everywhere.";

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
19 Honorable Mike Lowry, Governor of the State of Washington, the
20 Honorable Judith A. Billings, the Superintendent of Public Instruction,
21 and the Chair, Washington Commission on Student Learning, ensure that
22 educational reform of the public schools is consistent with this
23 resolution so that Washington students have a meaningful opportunity to
24 achieve a position of academic excellence that would place Washington
25 students first in the nation; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
27 immediately transmitted to the Honorable Mike Lowry, Governor of the
28 state of Washington, the Honorable Judith A. Billings, Superintendent
29 of Public Instruction, and the Chair, Washington Commission on Student
30 Learning.

--- END ---