
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4023

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Sterk, Johnson, Cole, Hickel, Keiser, Talcott, Smith, Sump, Mulliken, Delvin, Quall, Koster, Linville, Robertson, D. Schmidt, Cooke, Cairnes and Thompson

Read first time 4/16/97. Referred to Committee on Rules.

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:

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, Congress is currently considering the reauthorization of
9 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (H.R. 3268 and S. 1578);
10 and

11 WHEREAS, We, the Washington State Legislature, recognize our
12 responsibility to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment in our
13 state's public schools; and

14 WHEREAS, Federal statute with respect to discipline of students
15 with disabilities has created terrible inequities in administering
16 school discipline; and

17 WHEREAS, Much of our ability to positively impact the learning
18 environment with respect to special needs students and discipline is
19 dictated by federal statute; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington's schools thoroughly embrace the inclusion and
2 least-restrictive, free and appropriate public education for all
3 students and we heartily concur;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
5 States Congress amend and reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities
6 Education Act taking into consideration the following issues:

7 (1) Correction of the inequity of discipline between regular and
8 special needs students;

9 (2) Financial support to school districts for costs associated with
10 the high cost programs and placement required in meeting federal
11 requirements;

12 (3) Policy and fiscal support for the development of state-wide and
13 regional ombudsman programs to reduce incidence of, and need for,
14 excessive litigation;

15 (4) Federal support for staff training in working with the
16 increasing diversity and severity of student behavioral problems; and

17 (5) Increased federal funding to augment state efforts at creation
18 of alternative programs for disruptive, dysfunctional students.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
21 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
22 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
23 State of Washington.

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