
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Schow, Rasmussen, Franklin, McAuliffe, Prince, Kohl and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

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, International trade is vital to the economy of the state
9 of Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, The skills children learn in schools today contribute to
11 their ability to take their places in the world of tomorrow; and

12 WHEREAS, The appreciation and understanding of people from other
13 countries is crucial to creating a climate conducive to world trade;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, When Washington school children have the opportunity to
16 sit beside students from other nations in their classrooms, they are
17 provided with a rich educational opportunity to get to know and
18 understand people from other cultures; and

19 WHEREAS, Washington has had a successful, thriving program for
20 students from other countries; and

1 WHEREAS, In Washington, we respect the balance between state and
2 federal rights and fulfill our promise to our citizens that education
3 is a state responsibility; and

4 WHEREAS, Governance of education is a state and local issue, not a
5 federal issue; and

6 WHEREAS, School districts in Washington had the freedom to choose
7 whether or not to accept students from other countries; and

8 WHEREAS, Federal restrictions on the use of state and local
9 education dollars to educate children from other nations deny citizens
10 in Washington the opportunity to decide how to best enrich the
11 educational experiences of all of our children and deny Washington's
12 children the opportunity to learn from children from other nations; and

13 WHEREAS, Recent federal changes to immigration laws only permit
14 states to support the educational costs for certain international
15 students sponsored by organizations specifically approved by the
16 federal government; and

17 WHEREAS, These recent federal changes to immigration laws
18 specifically prohibit states from supporting the educational costs of
19 students sponsored by other programs such as sister city programs or by
20 individual citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent changes completely prohibit elementary and middle
22 school students from participating in the international student
23 programs; and

24 WHEREAS, These changes in federal law reduce Washington state's
25 ability to have international students study in Washington and will
26 also reduce the opportunities for Washington's students to study in
27 other countries;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
29 Congress permit states to choose whether or not to educate children
30 from other countries who are living within the state and to change the
31 immigration reform law immediately to permit states to make these
32 decisions.

33 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
34 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
35 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
36 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
37 State of Washington.

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