
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8049

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Carlson, Regala, Eide, Jacobsen, Franklin, Schmidt, Brown, Spanel, Prentice, B. Sheldon, Berkey, Murray, Fraser, Keiser, Kline, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Rasmussen, Doumit and Mulliken

Read first time 01/29/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

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:

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, Washington State fully supports, deeply believes, and
9 actively pursues the goal of No Child Left Behind, all students
10 achieving at high levels; and

11 WHEREAS, We welcome the additional support No Child Left Behind has
12 brought to focus on quality education, the improvements needed to reach
13 all children, and the urgency nationwide to close achievement gaps; and

14 WHEREAS, We support a feasible and fair accountability system; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington State has attained approval and is in full
16 compliance with the requirements provided in the regulations; and

17 WHEREAS, There are four major areas in regulations and law, that if
18 improved, will support successful implementation of No Child Left
19 Behind; and

1 WHEREAS, Some students with disabilities have cognitive
2 disabilities that prevent them from succeeding on the Washington
3 Assessment of Student Learning, and therefore need more appropriate
4 measures for accountability; and

5 WHEREAS, Students with limited English proficiency are in their
6 program because they cannot speak, read, or write English and therefore
7 need more appropriate measures for accountability; and

8 WHEREAS, The Act imposes significant costs on the state, including
9 statewide professional development and the administration of newly
10 developed assessments, and on local school districts, and teachers and
11 paraprofessionals, for tasks including the funding of staff
12 development, certification upgrades, and coursework; and

13 WHEREAS, All students, all schools, and all districts do not
14 improve on a uniform basis across any state, and Washington state's
15 former continuous growth model provided a more educationally sound
16 model;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
18 President and Congress of the United States work together with state
19 legislatures and the United States Department of Education to improve
20 language in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and regulations
21 concerning its implementation, to make improvements to address the
22 issues raised in this Memorial, and to grant flexibility and changes
23 that will ensure successful nationwide implementation of the No Child
24 Left Behind Act.

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

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