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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Weinstein, Kline, Franklin, Spanel, Rasmussen, Keiser, Schmidt, Rockefeller, Pridemore, Jacobsen, Prentice, Fairley, Brown, Doumit, Poulsen, Thibaudeau, Regala, Eide, Shin and Berkey

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher 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 supports, believes in, and pursues the  
9 goal of No Child Left Behind, all students achieving at high levels;  
10 and

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

15 WHEREAS, The state supports a feasible and fair accountability  
16 system; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington State has attained approval and is in  
18 compliance with the requirements provided in the regulations; and

19 WHEREAS, There are several major areas in regulations and law, that

1 if improved, will support successful implementation of No Child Left  
2 Behind; and

3 WHEREAS, Some students with disabilities have cognitive  
4 disabilities that prevent them from succeeding on the Washington  
5 Assessment of Student Learning, and therefore need more appropriate  
6 measures for accountability that are not limited by the one-percent cap  
7 for special education alternate assessment; and

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

11 WHEREAS, All students, all schools, and all districts do not  
12 improve on a uniform basis across any state, and Washington State's  
13 former state accountability goals along with the required state uniform  
14 bar would provide a more educationally sound model; and

15 WHEREAS, The sanctions provided for under the No Child Left Behind  
16 Act cause several logistical obstacles, including causing school  
17 districts to set aside funds that should be used to meet the goals of  
18 the act; and

19 WHEREAS, The act imposes significant costs on the state and local  
20 school districts, teachers, and paraprofessionals; and

21 WHEREAS, These costs include the administration of newly required  
22 assessments, the costs of serving the educational needs of students  
23 identified by systems required by the act, and the costs of staff  
24 development, certification upgrades, and coursework;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
26 President and Congress of the United States work together with state  
27 legislatures and the United States Department of Education to fully  
28 fund the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, to improve  
29 language in the Act and regulations concerning its implementation, to  
30 make improvements to address the issues raised in this Memorial, and to  
31 grant the time, flexibility, and changes that will ensure successful  
32 nationwide implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act.

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

1 Washington.

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