

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY MASCHER

A Resolution requesting Iowa's congressional delegation to work to secure adequate funding for mandates required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) on January 8, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the NCLB legislation are laudable and Iowans embrace the conviction that all children should have an equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's commitment to providing all of its children with a high-quality education is evidenced by the fact that nearly 90 percent of Iowa's schools score above the national median on nationally standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, this commitment begins at the local level with school districts and schools setting challenging local academic standards and continues with the state's dedication to assisting local schools through the Iowa Early Intervention Program enacted in 1999 and the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program enacted in 2001; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for the NCLB represents approximately 4.1 percent of Iowa's total school district funding for education utilized in a school year; and

WHEREAS, state revenues are rebounding, but budget

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1 pressures threaten to overwhelm them, according to an
2 article published in February 2005 by the National
3 Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); and

4 WHEREAS, the federal government has neglected to
5 provide funding for the NCLB's mandated requirements
6 related to supplementary services, transportation
7 costs associated with moving students from buildings
8 in need of assistance to buildings making annual
9 progress, additional data collection, and professional
10 development for teachers in schools determined to be
11 in need of assistance; and

12 WHEREAS, the NCLB requirements create not only
13 another level of mandates lacking the resources to
14 bring about the level of success required, but could
15 actually result in a shift of vital instructional
16 dollars for NCLB purposes that are unlikely to enhance
17 student achievement or teacher quality; NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
19 That the Iowa House of Representatives requests Iowa's
20 elected representatives in the United States Congress,
21 in particular Senator Chuck Grassley, Chair of the
22 Committee on Finance, and Representative Jim Nussle,
23 Chair of the House Budget Committee, to support, work
24 to pass, and vote for adequate funding for mandates
25 required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
27 Resolution be sent to the members of Iowa's
28 congressional delegation.

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