

APR 14 2005  
Laid Over Under Rule 25

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45  
2 BY KRESSIG, BERRY, FREVERT, T. TAYLOR, JOCHUM, FOEGE,  
3 REICHERT, SMITH, HEDDENS, DAVITT, WINCKLER, LENSING,  
4 GASKILL, PETTENGILL, KUHN, WHITAKER, BUKTA, MURPHY,  
5 MERTZ, MASCHER, SWAIM, LYKAM, WHITEAD, SCHUELLER,  
6 ZIRKELBACH, D. TAYLOR, R. OLSON, JACOBY, and McCARTHY  
7 A Resolution urging the Iowa congressional delegation  
8 to make every effort to grant Iowa and other states  
9 the necessary time and resources to implement the  
10 requirements of the federal Individuals With  
11 Disabilities Education Act relating to highly  
12 qualified special education teachers.  
13 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa recognizes the  
14 importance of ensuring that every student, especially  
15 a student who has an individual education program  
16 (IEP), is taught by a highly qualified teacher; and  
17 WHEREAS, Iowa has a chronic shortage of special  
18 education teachers, a problem which only seems to  
19 increase annually throughout Iowa's urban and rural  
20 school districts; and  
21 WHEREAS, the federal Individuals With Disabilities  
22 Education Act (IDEA), enacted on December 3, 2004,  
23 brings significant changes to Iowa's requirements for  
24 "highly qualified" special education teachers; and  
25 WHEREAS, the reauthorized IDEA requires that  
26 special education teachers who teach multiple core  
27 academic subjects, such as in a self-contained  
28 classroom or in a resource room, have an academic  
29 major or pass a competency test for every one of the  
30 academic subjects they teach, which holds special

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1 education teachers to a higher standard than their  
2 general education peers who teach a single subject;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Act creates the possibility that  
5 special education teachers who become "highly  
6 qualified" in a core subject area may exercise their  
7 seniority to solely teach that subject in the general  
8 education setting, further increasing the special  
9 education teacher shortage; and

10 WHEREAS, a broad coalition of education groups  
11 advocate allowing special education teachers to  
12 consult, collaborate, or team teach with a highly  
13 qualified teacher in each of the subjects taught in  
14 the special education class; and

15 WHEREAS, Iowa teachers who hold a class "C" special  
16 education endorsement, meaning teachers who hold a  
17 valid license and have completed at least one-half of  
18 the credits necessary for a special education  
19 endorsement but who are still working toward  
20 completing the endorsement, do not meet the "highly  
21 qualified" mandate and are largely using their own  
22 resources to continue their education to become  
23 properly endorsed; and

24 WHEREAS, the overall likely impact of the Act on  
25 urban and rural schools is to magnify and spread the  
26 already overwhelming difficulties these schools face  
27 in finding highly qualified special education  
28 teachers; and

29 WHEREAS, there is every possibility that many of  
30 Iowa's school districts will need to make adjustments

1 to the learning environment, modify instructional  
2 methods, and adapt curricula in order to maintain the  
3 "highly qualified" status for special education  
4 teachers; and

5 WHEREAS, IDEA does not include any full funding  
6 provisions, nor, specifically, the guaranteed funding  
7 language as proposed in the Hagel-Harkin amendment;  
8 NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
10 That the members of the Iowa House of Representatives  
11 hereby call upon the Iowa congressional delegation to  
12 work with the U.S. Secretary of Education, or propose  
13 legislation, to grant Iowa and other states the  
14 necessary time and resources to implement the  
15 requirements of IDEA; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the  
17 Iowa House of Representatives is instructed to prepare  
18 a properly inscribed copy of this Resolution for the  
19 members of Iowa's congressional delegation and U.S.  
20 Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

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