

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY GRUNDBERG

(COMPANION TO LSB 3681SS BY BOETTGER)

A Concurrent Resolution reminding Iowa's congressional delegation to fund the federal financial commitment to states, localities, and children with disabilities under the federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

WHEREAS, one of the major purposes of the federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act is to ensure the availability of free appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, another purpose of the federal Act is to assist states, localities, educational service agencies, and federal agencies to provide this education to all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, federal law has, since 1975, authorized appropriation levels for grants to states at a maximum amount equal to the number of children aged 3 through 21 multiplied by 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while special education costs and enrollments have soared, seriously impacting state and local budgets, the actual appropriation to accomplish the purposes set forth in the federal Act rarely exceeds 9 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Part B of the federal Act

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1 is to provide federal funding for coordinated  
2 research, demonstration projects, outreach, and  
3 personnel-preparation activities that are linked with,  
4 and promote, systemic change; and to improve early  
5 intervention, educational, and transitional results  
6 for children with disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, according to figures provided by the  
8 National Conference of State Legislatures, Iowa's  
9 allocation for fiscal year 2000-2001 from Congress for  
10 Part B services under the federal Act of nearly \$58.9  
11 million is only one-third of the federal financial  
12 commitment; and

13 WHEREAS, the shortfall created by the unfulfilled  
14 federal commitment shortchanges students with  
15 disabilities and increases the budgetary hardships  
16 faced by state and local governments; NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
18 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa General Assembly  
19 respectfully reminds Iowa's elected Senators and  
20 Representatives in the United States Congress to  
21 support and pass an appropriations bill that funds the  
22 required amount under the federal Act for the purpose  
23 of assisting state and local governments in providing  
24 special education and related services designed to  
25 meet the unique needs of children with disabilities  
26 and fulfilling the laudable purposes of the federal  
27 Act.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies  
29 of this Resolution shall be sent by the Chief Clerk of  
30 the House of Representatives to Senator Charles E.

1 Grassley, Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Jim  
2 Leach, Representative Jim Nussle, Representative  
3 Leonard Boswell, Representative Greg Ganske, and  
4 Representative Tom Latham.

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