

HJR

13

Alaska State Legislature

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House Special Committee on Education

Representative Carl Gatto, Chair

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

Urging adoption of the Alaska recommendations for implementing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The No Child Left Behind Act is a mammoth piece of federal legislation the implications of which encompass nearly every facet of the educational system in the state of Alaska. The implementation of the NCLB Act is a daunting task for every state however it is vital that the Federal Department of Education recognize the true uniqueness of Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development have been working on Alaska's application for two years and have submitted a proposal for peer-review. It is important that Alaska be allowed to develop a plan, which works well in this extremely large, diverse state of Alaska. I ask your support of HJR 13, which urges prompt approval of the Alaska consolidated state application accountability workbook so that the children of Alaska may experience the full benefits that the No Child Left Behind Act promises for each and every child of our state.

MAR 6 - 2003

(dyson draft)

Urging the United States Department of Education to approve the Alaska recommendations for implementing the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Public Law 107-110), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature ardently supports the intent and goals of the No Child Left Behind Act and is committed to implementing state and federal school reform initiatives aimed at ensuring that *all* children meet state academic standards and benefit from the promise of the No Child Left Behind Act; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development submitted as required to the United States Department of Education on January 31, 2003 the Alaska Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook for State Grants under Title IX, Part C, Section 9302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Public Law 107-110), also know as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and

WHEREAS Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski and officials from the Murkowski Administration have voiced their strong support for the intent and goal of the No Child Left Behind Act and the state's commitment to implementing the Act; and

WHEREAS Governor Murkowski and his Administration explained to U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and key officials of the U.S. Department of Education Alaska's unique challenges in meeting the No Child Left Behind Act and the relief Alaska requests including the plan expressed in the Accountability Workbook and Alaska implementation strategies for the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act that address Highly Qualified Teachers, Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals, English Language Assessment and Native Language Immersion, and Choice and Supplemental Services, and

WHEREAS Alaskans, before the passage of NCLB, demonstrated commitment and successes in implementation of many of the NCLB goals, including, but not limited to; a statewide assessment program, charter schools, distance learning programs, parental involvement programs, and teacher training.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of Education to speedily approve the Alaska Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook, and to accept the Alaska implementation strategies relating to (1) Highly Qualified Teachers, (2) Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals, (3) English Language Assessment and Native Language Immersion, and (4) Choice and Supplemental Services so that the children of Alaska can experience the full benefits that the No Child Left Behind Act promises for each and every child in our state and nation.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Paige, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Subject: NCLB Resolution

Date: Wed, 05 Mar 2003 17:57:54 -0900

From: Wes Keller <Wes_Keller@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Jean Ellis <Jean_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us>,
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I am very sorry that we have been slow on this--- Here is our best shot (attached)

Rationale:

-- If we start with a simple resolution to meet at least one of the goals Kevin asked for (to show unanimity on the proposed plan), we have a better chance of smooth sailing.

-- There will be plenty of opportunities to accomplish the second goal (emphasis of our unique problems), including an address Fred will have the opportunity of delivering to the peer review people before they start. The problem with putting them in the resolution is that it begins really fast to sound like whining. I have been to several NCLB conferences and by the time you here the third state tell about how they have a unique situation, cynicism begins to build. Also, we could footnote the reference to unique challenges communicated already to Rod Paige and include as much as we want as an attachment when we give them copies.

-- The last be it therefore resolved can easily be taken as a threat. Most people do not respond to threats with positive action...


--- Anything I have left out of this can be re-inserted in Committee on it's own merit. By starting simple and being brief, we communicate the first purpose and let committee members add things as they agree to do so.

Confession: The last WHEREAS is an addition by our office. Jean, if Rep Wilson is uncomfortable with it we will take it out and attempt to float the idea as an addition like all the things we freely deleted out. It just seems to us that this "whereas" communicates that we really do understand the goal of NCLB...

Hope this gets us rolling...

sincerely,

wes

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