

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
 3 urging Congress to honor the limits of federal power  
 4 as enshrined by the Constitution of the United States.

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 6 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recognizes that the  
 7 State's reliance on federal funds containing stipulations and  
 8 restrictions limits our ability to be responsive to the needs of  
 9 our citizens, and

10 WHEREAS, the State's dependency on federal funds has  
 11 diminished our sovereignty and skewed our budget priorities, and

12 WHEREAS, maintenance-of-effort requirements prevents the  
 13 State from providing public education in a more efficient or  
 14 cost-effective way, and

15 WHEREAS, the State is unable to reduce burdensome  
 16 regulations because such regulations are necessary to  
 17 demonstrate compliance with federal programs; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has  
 19 placed conditions on the State's Title I grant award and has  
 20 threatened to place conditions on the State's IDEA Part B grant  
 21 award; and

22 WHEREAS, less federal control would permit the State and  
 23 local school districts to find ways to operate programs in a  
 24 more economically-efficient manner, and

25 WHEREAS, providing federal funds through block grants would  
 26 provide the State with the greater flexibility to meet the needs  
 27 of its citizens, and

28 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, which is directly  
 29 accountable to the citizens of Florida, is the appropriate body  
 30 to govern public education free from any pressure from  
 31 politically unaccountable agencies in Washington, NOW,  
 32 THEREFORE,

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 34 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 36 (1) That the Congress of the United States is urged to end  
 37 all current, and prohibit any further, interference by the  
 38 United States Department of Education with respect to public  
 39 school governance;

40 (2) That to improve the educational outcomes of children  
 41 from disadvantaged families, Title I funds should be provided as  
 42 a block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to  
 43 develop innovative solutions responsive to the educational needs  
 44 of its students;

45 (3) That to improve the educational outcomes of students  
 46 with disabilities, IDEA Part B funds should be provided as a  
 47 block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to expand  
 48 educational options for students with disabilities;

49 (4) That this memorial serves as a notice and demand for  
 50 the prohibition of federal programs that incentivize states to  
 51 take certain actions in order to maintain federal funding; and

52 (5) That this memorial serves as notice to the Congress of  
 53 the United States that it is the duty of the Florida Legislature  
 54 to exercise its constitutional authority over public education.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
 56 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
 57 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
 58 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
 59 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.