PCB EDC 17-01 ORIGINAL 2017

House Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) That the Congress of the United States is urged to end all current, and prohibit any further, interference by the United States Department of Education with respect to public school governance;
- (2) That to improve the educational outcomes of children from disadvantaged families, Title I funds should be provided as a block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to develop innovative solutions responsive to the educational needs of its students;
- (3) That to improve the educational outcomes of students with disabilities, IDEA Part B funds should be provided as a block grant so that the State of Florida can continue to expand educational options for students with disabilities;

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- (4) That this memorial serves as a notice and demand for the prohibition of federal programs that incentivize states to take certain actions in order to maintain federal funding; and
- (5) That this memorial serves as notice to the Congress of the United States that it is the duty of the Florida Legislature to exercise its constitutional authority over public education.

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

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