

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.99

Senators Bayer, Polehanki, McMorrow, Moss, Wojno, Santana, Bullock, Brinks, Irwin, Alexander, Theis, LaSata, Bumstead, Geiss and Chang offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to enact legislation to fully fund the Individuals with
3 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4 Whereas, Children with disabilities deserve quality education
5 to develop skills so they can fully participate in social,
6 economic, and political life. However, these children face
7 significant barriers to education and are more likely to be out of
8 school. Ensuring access to education is the best way to help
9 children with disabilities realize their full potential; and

10 Whereas, Congress has established that equal access to
11 education for students with disabilities is an essential element of

1 our national policy by passing the Individuals with Disabilities
2 Education Act (IDEA). Congress states in the law that disability
3 is a natural part of the human experience, and the IDEA is meant to
4 ensure equality of opportunity and economic self-sufficiency for
5 all individuals with disabilities; and

6 Whereas, While the IDEA has resulted in increased access to
7 education for millions of students, the Act remains dangerously
8 underfunded. In the original 1975 legislation, Congress promised to
9 cover 40 percent of the extra cost of special education services
10 required by the Act. However, the federal government is currently
11 covering only 14.6 percent of the cost, despite a 25 percent
12 increase in the number of students served; and

13 Whereas, The IDEA Full Funding Act (S. 866) would fully fund
14 the IDEA at the 40 percent level that was originally promised.
15 Passage of this legislation would ensure that the federal
16 government is paying for its fair share of the cost of special
17 education services and would alleviate the financial burden on
18 individual school districts; and

19 Whereas, Students and teachers suffer when Congress fails to
20 live up to its funding commitment. School districts are forced to
21 cover the costs with a scarcity of resources and must sometimes
22 divert funds away from other programs that serve all students. In
23 addition, school districts have less funding for teacher salaries
24 and classroom resources, making it more difficult to recruit and
25 retain high-quality teachers; now, therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
27 the United States to enact legislation to fully fund the
28 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so that children with
29 disabilities have equal access to educational opportunity; and be

1 it further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
3 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
4 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
5 congressional delegation.