

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.129

Senators Bayer, Bullock, Geiss, Polehanki, Moss, Brinks, McMorrow, Chang, Alexander and Hollier 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.

4       Whereas, Children with disabilities deserve quality education  
5 to develop skills so they can fully participate in social,  
6 economic, and political life. Many of 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). In the Act, Congress states 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, as of 2020, the federal government  
11 was 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) was introduced in  
14 2019 to require that Congress fund the IDEA at the 40 percent level  
15 that was originally promised. Similar legislation needs to be  
16 introduced this session in order to ensure that the federal  
17 government is paying its fair share of the cost of special  
18 education services and to alleviate the financial burden on  
19 individual school districts; and

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

27       Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of  
28 the United States to enact legislation to fully fund the  
29 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so children with

1 disabilities have equal access to educational opportunity; and be  
2 it further

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