

1 SJR159
2 121756-1
3 By Senator Ross
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 13-APR-10

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8 URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, IN THE
9 COURSE OF REAUTHORIZING THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
10 ACT (ESEA), TO DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING THEREUNDER IN ACCORDANCE
11 WITH CURRENT FUNDING FORMULAE.

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13 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States is in the
14 process of reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary
15 Education Act (ESEA), more commonly referred to as "No Child
16 Left Behind"; and

17 WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of School Boards,
18 the Alabama Education Association, the Council for Leaders in
19 Alabama Schools, and the School Superintendents of Alabama
20 have common concerns regarding this reauthorization; and

21 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature maintains that
22 states, not the federal government, have principal
23 responsibility and sufficient flexibility to develop standards
24 of student learning and coordinate a broad range of
25 evidence-based activities by which those measures are
26 determined; and

1 WHEREAS, federal, state, and local data collection
2 must be coordinated to meet the instructional needs of
3 teachers and principals, as well as the need for information
4 and transparency among policymakers, parents, and community
5 members; the ESEA must invest not only in state longitudinal
6 data systems, but also in local data systems, as school
7 districts work to come into compliance with state systems; and

8 WHEREAS, local school systems currently employ over
9 5,800 education personnel with funds appropriated through
10 federal grants; and

11 WHEREAS, the Alabama education community and the
12 members of this body strongly support the continuation of
13 awarding federal grants through formulae and not a competitive
14 grant process, which would further handicap Alabama's
15 financially strapped local school systems; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge and exhort the
18 Congress of the United States, in the course of reauthorizing
19 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to draw from the
20 experiences of local educators who know students best and
21 focus the limited federal dollars that will be directed to the
22 State of Alabama on areas that will be best served through
23 current funding formulae, rather than competitive grants,
24 which lead to inequality and are not financially stable under
25 the present economic climate.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
2 resolution shall be provided to each member of Alabama's
3 Congressional delegation.