



1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The general intent and spirit of the federal No  
3 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), known as  
4 NCLB, are worthy of praise; and

5 WHEREAS, Many of NCLB's requirements on schools have been  
6 implemented in a manner that may result in federal sanctions  
7 being placed on improving schools; and

8 WHEREAS, Improvement status and associated sanctions under  
9 NCLB should be differentiated based on the magnitude of the  
10 school's failure to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP)  
11 requirements; and

12 WHEREAS, Schools should be allowed to choose the order of  
13 initiating either school choice or supplemental services so  
14 that services can be developed or secured in response to  
15 student need; and

16 WHEREAS, Adequate annual funding for the necessary  
17 remediation of students who are not meeting performance  
18 standards is a necessity if states are to meet the goals of  
19 NCLB; and

20 WHEREAS, Appropriate flexibility for schools, particularly  
21 in states with diverse populations such as Illinois, will allow  
22 NCLB to be implemented in a way that best meets the broad needs  
23 of a state's pupils; and

24 WHEREAS, States should be allowed to adopt value-added  
25 models based on the growth of individual students from grade to  
26 grade, ensuring that students achieve proficiency over time,  
27 and Illinois is examining the possibility of developing such a  
28 model; and

1           WHEREAS, One hundred percent of students reaching state  
2 standards, while commendable and desirable, is generally  
3 recognized as not being a realistically achievable goal, and  
4 additional research should be conducted regarding a more  
5 reasonable benchmark; and

6           WHEREAS, A recent and commendable announcement from the  
7 U.S. Department of Education, which allowed modified  
8 assessments for students with persistent academic  
9 disabilities, has shown that common sense and flexibility can  
10 be maintained without detracting from NCLB's goal of  
11 accountability; and

12           WHEREAS, While still striving to reach the laudable goal of  
13 having a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, the U.S.  
14 Department of Education has begun to take appropriate steps to  
15 adjust certain regulations to accommodate the needs of rural  
16 school districts and districts attempting to fill positions in  
17 special education and hard-to-staff subjects and schools;  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
21 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we call on the Illinois congressional  
22 delegation to take action to review and amend NCLB and to  
23 encourage the U.S. Department of Education to implement  
24 regulations that (i) will permit appropriate consideration of  
25 students with special educational needs with respect to  
26 determinations of adequate yearly progress, including without  
27 limitation limited English-proficient students and special  
28 education students, (ii) will be sensitive to the needs for  
29 teachers in schools in hard-to-staff, rural, or isolated school  
30 districts and in special education, (iii) will reduce  
31 bureaucratic restrictions that stand in the way of the goals of  
32 NCLB, and (iv) will allow flexibility to the states in meeting  
33 the goals of the NCLB; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge the President and the Congress of  
2 the United States to fully fund the requirements of NCLB for  
3 the life of the Act; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
5 delivered to the President of the United States, to the U.S.  
6 Secretary of Education, and to each member of the Illinois  
7 congressional delegation.