



HJ0045

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The future well-being of Illinois and the United
3 States relies on a high-quality public education system; and

4 WHEREAS, After the No Child Left Behind Act passed in 2002,
5 the United States went from 18th in the world in math on the
6 Programme for International Student Assessment to 31st place in
7 2009; and

8 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Behind Act has been shown to
9 widen the gaps and inequities among student populations; and

10 WHEREAS, School systems across the county have been
11 spending growing amounts of time, money, and resources on
12 high-stakes standardized testing; and

13 WHEREAS, Since the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act,
14 annual State spending on standardized tests rose from \$423
15 million to almost \$1.1 billion in 2008, according to the Pew
16 Center on the States; and

17 WHEREAS, Student performance on standardized tests is used
18 to make major decisions affecting individual students,
19 educators, and schools; and

1 WHEREAS, Over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing
2 is undermining educational quality and equity in public
3 schools; and

4 WHEREAS, Over-reliance on standardized testing hampers
5 innovation, creativity, and deep subject-matter knowledge; and

6 WHEREAS, Over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused
7 too many schools to narrow their curriculum and teach to the
8 test; and

9 WHEREAS, A national 2007 study by the Center on Education
10 Policy reported that since 2001, 44% of school districts had
11 reduced time spent on science, social studies, and the arts by
12 an average of 145 minutes per week in order to focus on reading
13 and math; and

14 WHEREAS, Over-emphasis on standardized testing can reduce
15 interest in learning, push students out of school, drive
16 excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermine school
17 climate; and

18 WHEREAS, It is widely recognized that standardized testing
19 is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student
20 learning and educator effectiveness; and

1 WHEREAS, English language learners and students with
2 disabilities must take the same test as other students with
3 little or no accommodations; and

4 WHEREAS, High-stakes standardized testing has negative
5 effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for
6 low-income students, English language learners, children of
7 color, and those with disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, The structure of the systems in which students
9 learn must change in order to foster engaging school
10 experiences that promote knowledge; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we strongly urge Congress and
14 President Obama's administration to reexamine public school
15 accountability systems; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we encourage Congress and President Obama's
17 administration to develop a system based on multiple forms of
18 assessment which does not require extensive testing and more
19 accurately reflects the broad range of student learning; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That we call on Congress and President Obama's

1 Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary
2 Education Act, currently known as the "No Child Left Behind
3 Act", reduce testing mandates, promote multiple forms of
4 evidence of student learning and school quality in
5 accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of
6 student test scores in evaluating educators; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 presented to President Barack Obama and each member of the
9 Illinois congressional delegation.