

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
3 ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
4 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, putting our children first is both an economic imperative and a
9 moral necessity, and a strong education system is vital to a strong economy;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, public education is clearly an area left to the states under
12 the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind law requires unrealistic ex-
14 pectations as nearly one-half of the public schools in the United States did
15 not meet federal achievement standards in 2011, including eighty-nine per-
16 cent of Florida's public schools; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind law constricts the definition
18 of education into a narrow test-based approach where repetition and memo-
19 rization are more important than application, and it discourages creativity
20 by students and teachers; and

21 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind law's emphasis on math and
22 reading means less attention for other very important subjects such as his-
23 tory, art, music, vocational education and physical education; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind law is insufficiently funded
25 to bring about its intended effect and it has imposed what is essentially an
26 unfunded educational mandate on the states; and

27 WHEREAS, the ongoing recession has forced the State of Idaho to make
28 difficult decisions regarding the funding of public education and these de-
29 cisions have resulted in larger class sizes, layoffs of educational staff,
30 curtailment of extracurricular activities and school sponsored programs and
31 a shorter school year; and

32 WHEREAS, economic recovery and development depend upon an educated
33 workforce that possesses the skills that are necessary to handle the jobs of
34 the 21st century; the State of Idaho cannot achieve and maintain prosperity
35 if it does not properly fund secondary and post-secondary education; and
36 Republicans and Democrats agree that burdensome regulations prevent our
37 schools, our teachers and our students from achieving their potential.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
39 Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
40 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Congress of the United States of
41 America is respectfully urged to repeal the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
42 (P.L. 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425).

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
2 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
3 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the
5 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.