

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES
THAT BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE FAMILY TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT RATHER THAN
INCREASE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, families are the most important and basic unit of society; and
WHEREAS, as societies mature, power, responsibility and resources tend
to migrate away from families and individuals to institutions, most notably
government; and

WHEREAS, as power and resources migrate away from families, families
are weakened and harmed; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of functional, or self-funded, families
is important for the long-term economic and social health of the State of
Idaho; and

WHEREAS, a functional family provides its own food, clothing, housing,
health care, transportation and other social services at no cost to other
taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a family that provides its own social services does so more ef-
ficiently than government agencies that provide similar services; and

WHEREAS, the increase in government budgets in the last 100 years is
linked to three main budget areas: health care, education, poverty and en-
titlement programs; and

WHEREAS, these three budget items were responsibilities historically
fulfilled by families and other nongovernment organizations; and

WHEREAS, when government provides these services, overhead costs are
higher while placing a burden on other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, government agencies that compete with functional families by
providing similar services have a tendency to crowd out the family and under-
mine family responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, most existing government-funded poverty programs suffer from
a fatal flaw of trying to redistribute wealth rather than increasing the pro-
ductive capacity of the poor and needy. The emphasis of such programs is
on equalizing consumption rather than increasing the productive capacity of
the poor and needy, so they can become self-sufficient and independent; and

WHEREAS, if there were more functional families in Idaho, state support
and spending on health care, education, and poverty and entitlement programs
could either stabilize or decrease, with improved outcomes; and

WHEREAS, so far in the history of the State of Idaho, the Legislature has
been more successful in funding government poverty programs than in devising
ways to reengage and empower the family; and

WHEREAS, families need resources and choices in order to become reem-
powered; and

1 WHEREAS, government cannot decree that families become functional;
2 families must make this choice on their own. However, government can set up
3 conditions under which families may choose to accept greater responsibil-
4 ity; and

5 WHEREAS, the elimination of current programs would cause disruption,
6 fear and chaos. However, it is the desire of the Legislature to increase the
7 number of functional or self-funded families; and

8 WHEREAS, as the percentage of functional families increases, so does
9 societal stability and strength; and, as the number of functional families
10 decreases, crime, poverty and social problems increase, and the budgets
11 required to address social ills also increase; and

12 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature wishes to facilitate an increase in the
13 number of functional families; and

14 WHEREAS, three areas of focus where increasing the role, power and in-
15 fluence of the family can have great impact are health care, education, and
16 poverty and entitlement programs.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
18 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
19 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature encourages health
20 care policies that increase funding available to families, such as funded
21 health savings accounts, so that families may decide how to use the funds to
22 increase access to primary and preventative care.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the adoption of
24 education policies that empower students and parents including but not lim-
25 ited to: mastery-based education that allows students to have more control
26 over what is learned, the speed of learning and the type of learning that
27 takes place; the growth of career technical education and apprenticeship
28 programs for high school students so that upon leaving high school they have
29 the ability to secure good high-paying jobs; and providing other choice pro-
30 grams in education, both in and outside of traditional public schools, that
31 allow parents to find the education choice that best fits the needs of their
32 child.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Department of
34 Health and Welfare to consider the creation of a pilot program with state
35 funds, so state rules can be followed that will help participants pass
36 through poverty quickly and reach financial independence, and encourages
37 the Department of Health and Welfare to find other ways to build the capacity
38 of the family to self-fund rather than simply increase the size of public
39 programs.