

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to utilize the power of technology to boost American productivity and performance by consulting with state legislatures, education, and computer organizations to ensure that every student has access to a low-cost laptop.

WHEREAS, the personal computer is an indispensable twenty-first century learning tool; and

WHEREAS, the decreasing cost of technology makes it possible to equip every student with a portable, personal computer; and

WHEREAS, low-cost laptops are "twenty-first century textbooks" due to their capacity to store thousands of books and research materials; and

WHEREAS, computer technology has been shown to improve academic performance, attendance, and enthusiasm in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey by the November 2007 Pew Internet & American Life Project, one-fourth of Americans do not have computers at home; and

WHEREAS, the "digital divide" most sharply impacts the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS, attaining universal access to communication technology is a goal spelled out in the 1996 Telecommunications Act; and

WHEREAS, a nationwide push among state leaders to equip students with laptops promises to fuel a new generation of math, science, and technology innovators; and

WHEREAS, computer proficiency is increasingly required by employers and institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, previous technology-focused efforts, such as the Technology Opportunities Program and E-Rate, resulted in newfound information and communication access for millions of students and thousands of schools; and

WHEREAS, the provision of low-cost laptops for all students would increase learning in core subjects, improve literacy in technology essential for twenty-first century skills, and stimulate creativity, all necessary in reaching the goal of academic excellence in schools as well as developing a technical proficiency at an early age.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to utilize the power of technology to boost American productivity and performance by consulting with state legislatures, education, and computer organizations to ensure that every student has access to a low-cost laptop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES