

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROWLAND.

2162H.011

2 **WHEREAS**, all state governments and the federal government endorse educational
3 excellence and student achievement as essential to a democratic society; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States enacted Title VIII of the Elementary and
5 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Impact Aid law) in order to provide funding for local school
6 districts that have lower property tax revenues due to tax-exempt federal lands; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States enacted the Secure Rural Schools and
9 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools Act) in order to supplement
10 funding for schools; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, funding under the Impact Aid law and the Secure Rural Schools Act is
13 critical for local school districts, which rely on state and local property taxes as a significant
14 source of their funding; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, tax-exempt federal lands can greatly reduce the state and local property
17 taxes that support local school districts; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, funding to local school districts in Missouri under the Secure Rural Schools
20 Act totaled over three million dollars for the 2013-14 school year; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the Secure Rural Schools program expired on September 30, 2014, in the
23 absence of reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act, resulting in significantly decreased
24 payments to states; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the 114th Congress has not yet ensured continuation of funding under the
27 Impact Aid law by reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the children of Missouri should not suffer due to federal tax immunities
30 that are distributed in a random and unequal fashion among the local school districts in Missouri;
31 and

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33 **WHEREAS**, state and local school districts should retain sufficient educational funding
34 to achieve both federal and state educational goals and mandates; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, a sudden loss of funds would significantly damage the ability of state and
37 local school districts to achieve both federal and state educational goals and mandates:

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39 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
40 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
41 concurring therein, hereby encourage the 114th Congress of the United States to reinstate the
42 Secure Rural Schools program at its previous funding levels and maintain funding under the
43 Impact Aid law; and

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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
46 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
47 member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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