
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4015

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ormsby, Priest, Fromhold, Orcutt, Sells, Hankins, Hasegawa, Kenney and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/07.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Washington state supports, believes in, and pursues the
10 goal of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is that all students will
11 achieve at high levels; and

12 WHEREAS, The state welcomes the additional support the No Child
13 Left Behind Act has brought to focus on quality education and the
14 improvements needed to reach all children; and

15 WHEREAS, One of the key goals of the No Child Left Behind Act was
16 to place a "highly qualified" teacher in every classroom to ensure
17 academic success of students; and

18 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Behind Act defines a highly qualified
19 teacher as one who holds at least a bachelor's degree and has

1 demonstrated subject matter competence in each academic subject area in
2 which the teacher teaches; and

3 WHEREAS, There are growing numbers of teacher shortage areas,
4 especially in high need technical fields and areas of highly
5 specialized knowledge such as first peoples' language, culture, and
6 history; and

7 WHEREAS, Career and technical education teachers are often hired
8 from industries in which a bachelor's degree is not the preferred level
9 of certification; and

10 WHEREAS, Teachers of first peoples' language, culture, and history
11 are hired through specialized certification programs because of their
12 unique expertise in fields in which a bachelor's degree is not the
13 acknowledged level of certification; and

14 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature passed legislation in
15 2006 that allows for credit for core academic subjects learned through
16 career and technical education, but if the teacher does not have a
17 bachelor's degree, the district must report them to parents as "not
18 highly qualified"; and

19 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature in 2005 passed
20 legislation encouraging the teaching of first peoples' history and
21 culture, acknowledging the value, uniqueness, and importance of the
22 state's first peoples' histories, cultures, and governments in the
23 public schools; and

24 WHEREAS, The current definition of "highly qualified" places career
25 and technical education industry teachers and teachers of first
26 peoples' language, culture, and history at a disadvantage in school
27 districts; and

28 WHEREAS, Career and technical education teachers from industry and
29 teachers of first peoples' language, culture, and history are in fact
30 "highly qualified" to provide students with both the academic and
31 technical education they need to be successful;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
33 President and Congress make a positive change in the definition of
34 highly qualified teachers under the No Child Left Behind Act to include
35 career and technical teachers who come to the teaching profession
36 directly from industry and teachers of first peoples' language,
37 culture, and history who come into the teaching profession through
38 first peoples' teacher certification programs.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
3 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of
5 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of
6 Education.

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