

No. R-93. Joint resolution requesting that penalties under the No Child Left Behind Act be suspended until the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is reauthorized in a revised form.

(J.R.S.16)

By the Committee on Education,

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is incorporated into the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of NCLB, public schools must focus on math and reading, and

Whereas, in a 2007 study, the Center for Education Policy found that 44 percent of United States school districts have reduced the amount of time spent on science, social studies, and the arts, and

Whereas, focusing only on math and reading will not adequately prepare Vermont students for the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy, and

Whereas, the test score gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have been lower since the enactment of NCLB, and

Whereas, NCLB measures are narrow and imprecise, and they ignore other factors in student academic performance, and

Whereas, many Vermont schools are forced to choose between losing highly qualified and effective principals and teachers or reject substantial funding, due to punitive sanctions for their failure to make adequate yearly progress under NCLB, and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the United States Congress periodically to evaluate the effectiveness of this legislation and reauthorize ESEA, and

Whereas, Congress has not thoroughly evaluated the impact of ESEA-NCLB on schools and the educational process since NCLB was first enacted in 2001, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to suspend immediately the punitive sanctions under the No Child Left Behind Act until the act is reauthorized in a revised form, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.