

2003 SENATE RESOLUTION 19

October 15, 2003 – Introduced by Senators DARLING, KANAVAS, SCHULTZ, STEPP and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** urging Congress to fully fund and reauthorize the No Child Left Behind
2 Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

3 Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature works closely with the Midwestern
4 Legislative Conference (MLC) to develop and introduce proposals for national
5 legislation; and

6 Whereas, the MLC recently gathered at the 58th annual meeting in Milwaukee,
7 Wisconsin, to generate ideas and share information; and

8 Whereas, the MLC is a nonpartisan organization comprised of state legislators
9 from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North
10 Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; and

11 Whereas, the MLC commends the federal government for its laudable goal of
12 leaving no child left behind educationally; and

13 Whereas, historically, education policy has been the jurisdiction of states and
14 local school districts; and

1 Whereas, states across the Midwest and elsewhere continue to struggle with
2 tremendous economic challenges, budget shortfalls, and teacher shortages; and

3 Whereas, the student assessment requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act
4 (NCLB) have broad implications for state/local policy making; now, therefore, be it

5 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the Wisconsin senate strongly urges Congress
6 and the administration to:

7 1) Commit to mandatory full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities
8 Education Act (IDEA) by 2010 (40 percent of costs), consistent with the report “IDEA
9 Funding: Time for a New Approach”;

10 2) Clarify assessment of students with disabilities through reauthorization of
11 IDEA;

12 3) Work closely with state legislatures to address our concerns with NCLB,
13 including waiver options, modification of state plans, and other implementation
14 concerns;

15 4) Ensure that definition of “highly qualified teachers” under NCLB and IDEA
16 do not inadvertently exacerbate teacher shortages;

17 5) Provide federal funding to implement NCLB to the state legislatures, for
18 open and deliberate hearings, not directly to state or sub-state agencies; and

19 6) Appropriate funds under NCLB sufficient to cover incurred costs borne by
20 states for NCLB; and, be it further

21 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to
22 the president of the United States, the U.S. Department of Education, and all
23 members of Congress from the states within the Midwestern Legislative Conference.

24 **(END)**