

2003 SENATE RESOLUTION 33

March 10, 2004 – Introduced by Senators LASSA, ERPENBACH, ROBSON, MOORE and COGGS. Referred to Committee on Education, Ethics and Elections.

1 **Relating to:** strongly urging the state not to appropriate any state funds for
2 implementing the No Child Left Behind Act which would not otherwise have
3 been expended for public education under existing state education laws.

4 Whereas, in fiscal year 2003, under the federal Elementary and Secondary
5 Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), Wisconsin received approximately \$277 million and
6 used the funds to run many programs that accrued great benefits to low income
7 children; and

8 Whereas, in January 2002, the federal government enacted a comprehensive
9 revision to ESEA known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which expanded
10 federal requirements for primary and secondary school education; and

11 Whereas, the act increases Wisconsin's system of setting standards and testing
12 students for achievement of the standards to once in each of grades 3 to 8 in language
13 arts and mathematics and to once in each of 3 grades in science causing a major
14 disruption of administrative and curriculum planning as well as a major expense to
15 Wisconsin's education system; and

1 Whereas, the act imposes serious consequences, which will have fiscal
2 implications to both the state and local school districts, in which the students in any
3 grade or subgroup such as low income students or students with disabilities within
4 a grade do not meet the standards; and

5 Whereas, NCLB is a “one size fits all” educational policy that will be
6 detrimental to Wisconsin’s rural and urban schools where it is already difficult to
7 recruit and retain teachers and where wild fluctuations in testing results can occur
8 due to small class sizes; and

9 Whereas, while the expanded provisions of NCLB direct many meritorious
10 improvements in the public education system, they have the potential to interfere
11 severely with state and local legislative and education administration prerogatives
12 and to cost the state of Wisconsin considerably more to implement than the amount
13 of federal grants it receives, thereby placing a major burden on the state’s strained
14 financial resources; and

15 Whereas, Public Law 104–4 of 1995 was intended to curb the practice of
16 imposing unfunded federal mandates on states and local government; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the senate strongly urges the state not to
19 appropriate any state funds for implementing NCLB which would not otherwise
20 have been expended for public education under existing state education laws; and,
21 be it further

22 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the senate urges the department of public
23 instruction, before adopting any new rules for the purpose of complying with NCLB,
24 to submit a written proposal describing the rule and the potential costs to local school

1 districts of implementing the rule to the senate committee on education; and, be it
2 further

3 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the senate urges the superintendent of public
4 instruction to submit to the senate committee on education a statement of
5 expenditures by the state and local school districts made to comply with NCLB; and,
6 be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the
8 president of the United States, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, the members
9 of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, and Superintendent of Public Instruction
10 Elizabeth Burmaster.

11 (END)