

H. Res. 399

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 16, 1998.

Whereas Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 334 F. Supp. 1247 (E. Dist. Pa. 1971), and Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia, 348 F. Supp. 866 (Dist. D. C. 1972), found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas the Congress responded to these court decisions by passing the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (enacted as Public Law 94–142), now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), to ensure a free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides that the Federal, State, and local governments are to share in the expense of educating children with disabilities and authorizes the Federal Government to pay up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Federal Government has provided only 7, 9, and 11 percent of the maximum State grant allocation for educating children with disabilities under the Individuals

with Disabilities Education Act in the last 3 years, respectively;

Whereas the national average cost of educating a special education student (\$12,002) is more than twice the national average per pupil cost (\$5,955);

Whereas research indicates that children who are effectively taught, including effective instruction aimed at acquiring literacy skills, and who receive positive early interventions demonstrate academic progress, and are significantly less likely to be referred to special education;

Whereas, if the appropriation for part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) exceeds \$4,100,000,000 for a fiscal year, a local educational agency may reduce its local spending on special education for such fiscal year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount that exceeds the prior year's appropriation so long as the local educational agency is not failing to comply with the requirements of part B of such Act, as determined by the State educational agency;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been successful in achieving significant increases in the number of children with disabilities who receive a free, appropriate public education; and

Whereas the current level of Federal funding to States and localities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is contrary to the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges the Congress and the President, working within the constraints of the balanced budget agreement, to give programs under

the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) higher priority among Federal education programs by working to fund the maximum State grant allocation for educating children with disabilities under such Act.

Attest:

Clerk.