

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 459

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to promoting the use of proven academic and classroom-management solutions for problems of behavior, attention, and learning in school children.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2000

Mr. SCHAFER (for himself, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. MCCOLLUM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to promoting the use of proven academic and classroom-management solutions for problems of behavior, attention, and learning in school children.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States reserves to the States the responsibility for the general supervision of public education in kindergarten through the twelfth grade;

Whereas State and local education agencies are dedicated to increasing academic achievement levels for all students and ensuring that no student is left behind;

Whereas it is the responsibility of school personnel to ensure that all students achieve academically;

Whereas only licensed medical personnel have the authority to prescribe psychotropic drugs;

Whereas State and local education agencies, schools, parents, and children have expressed serious concerns regarding the appropriate and thorough diagnosis and medication of students and the impact on student achievement;

Whereas the Journal of the American Medical Association has documented that, among children aged two to four, the use of some psychotropic drugs has tripled between 1991 and 1995, and such findings are extremely troublesome given the very limited amount of research and clinical data that evaluates the safety and effectiveness of psychotropic drugs on the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of young children;

Whereas the number of American school children receiving prescription psychotropic drugs now approaches 6,000,000; and

Whereas there are documented incidents of highly negative consequences resulting from psychotropic drugs that have been prescribed for school children for what are essentially problems of discipline, and such prescriptions may be related to the lack of academic success by the children involved: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2       resentatives that the Congress should—
- 3               (1) exercise its oversight responsibilities and
- 4       conduct hearings concerning the provision for

1 school children of prescriptions for psychotropic  
2 drugs;

3 (2) recommend that the National Academy of  
4 Sciences study the effects of prescription psycho-  
5 tropic drugs on the academic achievement and be-  
6 havior of school children;

7 (3) acknowledge the efforts of State and local  
8 education agencies, and support their conclusions  
9 and resolutions, regarding the prevalence among  
10 school children of prescription psychotropic drugs  
11 and the growing crisis of classroom management;

12 (4) encourage school personnel to use proven  
13 academic and classroom-management solutions for  
14 problems of behavior, attention, and learning dif-  
15 ficulties in school children; and

16 (5) urge greater communication between and  
17 education of parents, educators, and medical profes-  
18 sionals regarding the effects of prescription psycho-  
19 tropic drugs on the academic achievement and be-  
20 havior of school children and the ability to provide  
21 a successful, safe, and civil learning environment.

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