

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 22

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the implementation of the
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2003

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the
implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Whereas all students, no matter where they live, should receive the highest quality education possible, and Congress and the President enacted the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110) to ensure high academic standards and the tools and resources to meet those standards;

Whereas the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 imposes many new requirements and challenges for States, school districts, and individual educators;

Whereas many States and school districts are struggling to understand the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, even as additional regulations and

guidance continue to be forthcoming from the Department of Education;

Whereas the small size, remoteness, and lack of resources of many rural schools pose potential additional problems in implementing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

Whereas many rural schools and school districts have very small numbers of students, such that the performance of a few students on the assessments required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 can determine the progress or lack of progress of that school or school district;

Whereas the small number of students in many rural schools can make the disaggregation of testing results difficult and even statistically unreliable;

Whereas some of the options created for students attending failing schools, including the choice to attend another public school and the availability of supplemental tutoring services, simply may not be available in rural areas or may be prohibitively expensive due to the cost of transportation over long distances;

Whereas many rural schools already have shortages of teachers in key subject areas, rural teachers frequently teach in multiple subject areas, and rural teachers tend to be older, and lower paid than their urban counterparts;

Whereas many experienced teachers and paraprofessionals in rural schools may not meet the definition of “highly qualified” in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and rural school districts will have difficulty competing with large school districts in recruiting and retaining quality teachers;

Whereas the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 imposes many new requirements on schools and school districts, but the President's budget request for fiscal year 2003 does not provide the level of funding needed and authorized to meet those requirements and in fact cuts funding by \$90,000,000 for programs contained in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and

Whereas a majority of the States are being forced to cut budgets and local governments are also struggling with revenue shortfalls that make it difficult to provide the increased resources necessary to implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in the absence of adequate Federal funding: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Secretary of Education should provide
3 the maximum flexibility possible in assisting pre-
4 dominantly rural States and school districts in meet-
5 ing the unique challenges presented to them by the
6 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law
7 107–110);

8 (2) the President should, in his fiscal year 2004
9 budget request, request the full levels of funding au-
10 thorized under the No Child Left Behind Act of
11 2001 for all programs, including the Rural Edu-
12 cation Achievement Program (20 U.S.C. 7341 et
13 seq.); and

14 (3) it is the sense of the Senate that, if the
15 President does not request and Congress does not

1 provide full funding for the No Child Left Behind
2 Act of 2001 in fiscal year 2004, Congress should
3 suspend the enforcement of the implementation of
4 the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act
5 of 2001 until full funding is provided.

