

House Resolution No. 6032

By Committee on Taxation

2-17

1 A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to fulfill the federal
2 government's original funding promise under the Individuals with
3 Disabilities Education Act.

4
5 WHEREAS, The federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act
6 of 1975 was enacted by the United States Congress and signed into law
7 by President Gerald Ford to address the failure of the states to meet the
8 educational needs of children with disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, The act, known as the federal Individuals with
10 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) since 1990, remains to be the
11 cornerstone of federal statutory mandates governing special education;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The purpose of the act was to ensure that all children
14 with disabilities within the United States have access to "a free
15 appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and
16 related services designed to meet their unique needs, to assure that the
17 rights of children with disabilities and their parents or guardians are
18 protected, to assist states and localities to provide for the education of all
19 children with disabilities, and to assess and assure the effectiveness of
20 efforts to educate children with disabilities" within specific time periods;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, To help fulfill the purpose of the IDEA, the federal
23 government committed to fund 40% of the average per-pupil
24 expenditures for the provision of special education services in public
25 elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, Since 1975, including in the most recent amendments to
27 IDEA in 2004, the United States Congress has maintained such federal
28 funding authorization; and

29 WHEREAS, The federal government has never paid its promised 40%
30 share of the IDEA mandate, which forces states and local school districts
31 to cover the remaining costs of the provision of special education
32 services; and

33 WHEREAS, State legislatures, schools, disability groups and parent
34 groups have fought for decades to obtain full IDEA funding by urging the
35 United States Congress to raise federal IDEA appropriations to fulfill the
36 federal government's commitment to fund 40% of the average per-pupil

1 expenditures for the provision of special education services; and

2 WHEREAS, In her 2026 State of the State address, Governor Kelly
3 stated, "Once again, the federal government has dropped the ball on
4 funding for special education. When you think about what parents take on
5 when they have a child with a disability, you realize just how
6 unconscionable that is. Now, Kansas has already stepped up and added
7 over \$120 million for special education. We'll keep calling on Washington
8 to cover its fair share, but until it does, my budget will continue to
9 increase this investment"; and

10 WHEREAS, Because the promised federal funding commitment
11 remains unfulfilled, the funding burden falls on the already weighed
12 down backs of the states and local school districts, which results in severe
13 cuts to other state and local educational programs and necessitates state
14 and local tax increases: Now, therefore,

15 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*
16 That the Legislature of the State of Kansas urges the United States
17 Congress to enact legislation to fulfill its original promise to fund 40% of
18 the average per-student expenditures in public elementary and secondary
19 schools in the United States to fully fund the federal IDEA mandate; and

20 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
21 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to
22 Representative Goetz.

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