

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 23

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hancock
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Karnette and Mullin)**

May 17, 2007

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 23—Relative to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 23, as introduced, Hancock. No Child Left Behind Act: reauthorization.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to amend the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to give states more flexibility in the implementation of the law and in the identification of schools in need of improvement in order to target resources and interventions toward those schools and school districts that are most in need and would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to fully fund the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 for the life of the act.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The general intent and spirit of the federal No
2 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.),
3 known as NCLB, are commendable; and

4 WHEREAS, The NCLB is due to be reauthorized by Congress
5 in 2007; and

6 WHEREAS, More than four years of operational experience in
7 implementing the NCLB has resulted in unintended consequences,
8 including the identification of some of California's

1 highest-performing schools and school districts as being “in need
2 of improvement”; and

3 WHEREAS, Many of the unintended consequences result from
4 the rigid application of a “one size fits all” approach to
5 accountability; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a growing, bipartisan recognition among
7 state legislatures and in Congress that states need more flexibility
8 and financial support in implementing the NCLB; and

9 WHEREAS, Before the enactment of the NCLB, California had
10 established, implemented, and sustained an accountability system
11 that holds pupils and schools to some of the highest standards in
12 the entire country; and

13 WHEREAS, Many provisions of the NCLB conflict with
14 California’s own accountability system and fail to recognize
15 schools that are making substantial improvement; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
18 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature and the State of California
19 urge the Congress of the United States to amend the federal No
20 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to give states more flexibility in
21 the implementation of the law and in the identification of schools
22 in need of improvement in order to target resources and
23 interventions toward those schools and school districts that are
24 most in need; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges
26 the President of the United States and the Congress of the United
27 States to fully fund the requirements of the No Child Left Behind
28 Act of 2001 for the life of the act; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
30 of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the United
31 States Secretary for Education, and to each Senator and
32 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
33 States.