

By: Representative Fleming

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE 2003 POLICY REPORT OF
2 THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS.

3 WHEREAS, the 2003 Policy Report of the National Hispanic
4 Caucus of State Legislators addresses two goals: to foster a
5 shared level of understanding among Hispanic legislators
6 nationwide about the symptoms, root causes, and ameliorative
7 change strategies concerning Hispanic educational achievement and
8 attainment; and to articulate and create state legislative
9 strategies that might be implemented in piece or in whole across
10 the country; and

11 WHEREAS, the overall problem of Hispanic educational
12 achievement is conceptualized as comprising many performance gaps,
13 many levels of positive and negative explanatory factors, and as
14 inseparable from the larger drama of social, political and
15 demographic changes occurring in the Latino community; and

16 WHEREAS, the strengths of Hispanic culture and family life
17 are seen as major assets in improving the educational performance
18 of children and youth; and

19 WHEREAS, key benchmarks were reviewed in the following areas:
20 dropout rates; high school achievement in terms of grades and test
21 scores; college attendance rates; college completion rates;
22 college achievement; matriculation to professional and graduate
23 schools; and participation in high skill/high wage jobs and
24 careers; and

25 WHEREAS, contributing factors to these outcomes, as well as
26 potential program and policy solutions, were discussed in the
27 following areas: preschool education; time devoted to learning;

28 maximizing intellectual rigor; better trained teachers; learning
29 resources, programs and technology; social organization of
30 schools; academic choices and transitions; enabling Hispanic
31 parents; and

32 WHEREAS, the report also discusses how the National Hispanic
33 Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) as an organization can address
34 these issues, as well as individual NHCSL members in their own
35 states:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
37 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
38 THEREIN, That we do hereby endorse the 2003 Policy Report of
39 National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators and encourage the
40 State Department of Education to adopt these principles.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
42 furnished to the State Department of Education and to the members
43 of the Capitol Press Corps.