

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 535

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO EXERT THEIR EFFORTS IN THE  
3 CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL  
4 EDUCATION TO THE 40% LEVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE INDIVIDUALS WITH  
5 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

6 WHEREAS, the prosperity and well-being of the individual, the  
7 family, the state and nation are dependent on the skill and  
8 productive capacity of the individual; and

9 WHEREAS, special education develops an array of skills and  
10 increases productive capacity of students with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, there are schools in Mississippi as well as in other  
12 states with many underachieving special education students; and

13 WHEREAS, improvements in special education services are  
14 necessary so that all Mississippians who need it and can profit by  
15 it might have the opportunity to receive an appropriate level of  
16 education to achieve a more productive life; and

17 WHEREAS, state and local educational agencies are mandated by  
18 federal law to provide a free appropriate public education for  
19 students with disabilities; and

20 WHEREAS, state and local school districts struggle with the  
21 cost of providing services to students with disabilities, and  
22 meeting those costs requires a strong partnership between local,  
23 state and federal government; and

24 WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of  
25 1990, known as IDEA, authorizes for Part B an appropriation of up  
26 to 40 percent annually and less than 19 percent is currently being  
27 appropriated annually; and

28           WHEREAS, according to FFY 2004 figures, Mississippi's  
29 allocation is nearly \$105 Million from Congress for Part B  
30 services under IDEA, had Congress fully funded at the 40 percent  
31 level, Mississippi's allocation would have exceeded \$200 Million,  
32 thereby providing additional funding improving the quality and  
33 range of special education services:

34           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
36 we commend the members of our Mississippi Delegation in the United  
37 States Congress for the support they have given special education  
38 in the past and urge them to continue their support and exert  
39 their efforts to obtain the full appropriation of 40 percent  
40 authorized under the provisions of the Individuals with  
41 Disabilities Education Act within a two-year period.

42           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be  
43 instructed to immediately make available a certified copy of this  
44 resolution to each member of the Mississippi Delegation in the  
45 United States Congress. That a copy be made available to the  
46 State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education  
47 and the Capitol Press Corps.