

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

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 State Fiscal Year 2006 figures,
29 Mississippi's allocation is nearly \$110 Million from Congress for
30 Part B services under IDEA, and had Congress fully funded at the
31 40 percent level, Mississippi's allocation would have exceeded
32 \$290 Million, thereby providing additional funding improving the
33 quality and 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.