

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 17

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Department of Education to reinforce support of teachers who choose to teach a diverse curriculum.

Raatz, Kruse

January 23, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



SENATE RESOLUTION No. 17

MADAME PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Department of
2 Education to reinforce support of teachers who choose to teach
3 a diverse curriculum.

4 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly understands that*
5 *an important purpose of science education is to inform students*
6 *about scientific evidence and to help students develop the*
7 *critical thinking skills they need in order to become intelligent,*
8 *productive, and scientifically informed citizens;*

9 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly further*
10 *understands the recommendation by the U.S. Congress, as*
11 *stated in the report language of the 2001 No Child Left Behind*
12 *Act, namely, "Where topics are taught that may generate*
13 *controversy (such as biological evolution), that the curriculum*
14 *should help students to understand the full range of scientific*
15 *views that exist, why such topics can generate controversy, and*
16 *how scientific discoveries can profoundly affect society";*

17 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly further*
18 *understands that the ACLU and like organizations agree in*
19 *principle that any genuinely scientific evidence for or against*
20 *any explanation of life may be taught;*



1 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly urges in principle*
2 *the recommendation by U.S. Congress as stated above;*

3 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly understands that*
4 *neither recommendations, nor endorsements, nor implications*
5 *by the courts have the force of law, but to avoid legal or other*
6 *conflicts, teachers should not be intimidated, fired, or restricted*
7 *from following the recommendation named herein or students*
8 *penalized for holding differing positions based on the evidence*
9 *objectively presented, as long as they meet specified curriculum*
10 *requirements otherwise;*

11 *Whereas, the Indiana General Assembly understands that*
12 *neither the specified recommendation nor endorsement extends*
13 *to the promotion of any religious or non-religious doctrine, or*
14 *to the promotion or discrimination for or against a particular*
15 *set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs, or the promotion or*
16 *discrimination for or against religion or non-religion; and*

17 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly urges the*
18 *Department of Education to notify all public school system*
19 *superintendents of the provisions herein that they might*
20 *disseminate copies to all their employees within their district:*
21 *Therefore,*

22 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
23 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

24 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate urges the Department
25 of Education to reinforce support of teachers who choose to
26 teach a diverse curriculum.

27 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
28 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Indiana Department
29 of Education.

