

February 24, 2017

---

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 17

---

### DIGEST OF 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.  
February 23, 2017, reported favorably — Do Pass.

---

---

SR 17—RR 3519/DI HE





February 24, 2017

First Regular Session 120th General Assembly (2017)

## 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;*

SR 17—RR 3519/DI HE



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.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Resolution No. 17, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said resolution DO PASS.

(Reference is to SR 17 as introduced.)

KRUSE, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 3

