SHORT TITLE: A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the United States Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund the Federal Impact Aid Program; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 51

By: Easley of the Senate

and

Hutchison of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact laws to provide federal impact aid relief for Oklahoma public schools and public schools throughout the United States; memorializing the President of the United States to support full funding of the Federal Impact Aid Program; memorializing all other states to urge the President and the Congress of the United States to fully fund the Federal Impact Aid Program; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, federal impact aid, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1950, was designed to directly reimburse public school districts for the loss of traditional revenue sources, such as property taxes, sales taxes, personal income taxes, and vehicle license fees, because of exempt property due to federal presence or federal activity; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Impact Aid Program is currently funded at about 45% of full funding; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has 289 federally impacted school districts, which is more than any other state in the country; and

WHEREAS, 263 of the federally impacted school districts in Oklahoma enroll children from a variety of categories of eligible students, including children who reside on Indian tribal lands, military dependent children residing both on base and off base, children residing in federally subsidized low-rent housing units,

and children whose parents are civilian employees of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the average amount received statewide each year per federally weighted student unit, or per child, is $933 and the average cost to educate a child in Oklahoma is $2,714, leaving a shortfall of $1,781 per student; and

WHEREAS, the local and state taxpayers in Oklahoma are, on average, subsidizing 66% of the payment for educational services for federally connected children which should be an obligation of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, public schools make up the basic foundation of a healthy society and economy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,600 school districts throughout the United States educate about 1.4 million federally connected children who reside on Indian tribal lands, military dependent children, children in federally subsidized low-rent housing, and children whose parents are civilian employees of the federal government but who do not reside on federal property; and

WHEREAS, federally impacted public schools are being unfairly forced to carry the financial burden of the federal government through the loss of revenue on exempt property, thereby reducing the resources available each year for federally impacted schools to provide quality education to the children in federally impacted schools; and

WHEREAS, although costs have increased over 70% and other areas of education are seeing increases in budget allocations, the needs of federally impacted public schools continue to be ignored, resulting in a flat trend in appropriations to the Federal Impact Aid Program over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the parents or guardians of federally connected children do not contribute as much to the local tax base as non-federally connected persons; and

WHEREAS, property, sales, and personal income taxes, as well as vehicle license fees, account for a large portion of the average school district's annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Impact Aid Program was fully funded from 1950 to 1970 and has since been prorated, making local communities pay more for this federal obligation; and

WHEREAS, the financial uncertainty that Oklahoma school districts and school districts in other states face each year regarding federal impact aid impairs the ability of these districts to adequately plan for the coming year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby respectfully memorializes the President of the United States to support the efforts of the Congress of the United States to fully fund the Federal Impact Aid Program for public school districts which suffer substantial ad valorem revenue losses due to exempt property.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to fully fund the Federal Impact Aid Program for public school districts which have substantial ad valorem revenue losses due to exempt property.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby respectfully memorializes all other state legislatures to urge the President and Congress of the United States to fully fund the Federal Impact Aid Program.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to President William J. Clinton, all members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, United States Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Newt Gingrich.

46-2-2835 THC (<time=system>)