

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GRANTS TO STATES AND DISCRETIONARY SPENDING**

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40 **WHEREAS:** The status of education is an issue that effects every American and
50 continues to be one of the issues which will shape the United States in the
60 twenty-first century, and;

70 **WHEREAS:** The National Department of Education was formed in 1980 to strengthen
80 the federal commitment to education, provide equal access, and
90 supplement the efforts of states and local school systems, and;

100 **WHEREAS:** The 2001-2002 fiscal budget for the National Department of Education is
110 estimated at 44.7 billion dollars, and of that sum, only 4.6 billion dollars is
120 mandated by the federal government to any particular programs, and;

130 **WHEREAS:** The National Department of Education (NDE) asserts that education is
140 primarily a State and local responsibility in the United States. This asserts
150 the NDE and other educational research firms are necessary, because no
160 single educational administration could meet the diverse needs of students
170 in a nation of nearly 300 million people, and;

180 **WHEREAS:** The total expenditure on education by the fifty states is about 540 million
190 dollars or 10.8 million dollars per state. This total comprises ninety-one
200 percent of the nations spending on education. The additional nine percent
210 includes funds from multiple federal agencies including the Department of
220 Agriculture and Health and Human Services, and;

230 **WHEREAS:** The National Department of Education budget only comprises about six
240 percent of the nation's spending on education, and;

250 **WHEREAS:** The primary historical role of the National Department of Education has
260 been, according to the former and current department secretaries to serve
270 in a leadership role in the ongoing national dialogue over how to improve
280 the results of our education system for all students, and;

290 **WHEREAS:** The National Department of Education has created a variety of programs,
300 funded by the discretionary budget of the department, which is comprises
310 91.7 percent of the entire department budget, since 1980, and;

320 **WHEREAS:** In its own annual report the Department states that programs implemented
330 by the department save the Title I, Special Education Programs, and Pell
340 Grant Program have had little to no national impact in the area of
350 education, and;

360 **WHEREAS:** The Title I and Special Education Programs are funded from the
370 department's mandatory budget, and;

380 **WHEREAS:** The 40.1 billion dollars of discretionary funds controlled by the
390 department could have a profound affect improving the plight of under
400 privileged students, if used to supplement existing state programs; and,

410 **WHEREAS:** The National Department of Education has been unsuccessful in the

420 implementation of policies, which have a significant impact on the
430 national status of education, save the administration of federal financial
440 aid and higher education grant programs; and,

450 **WHEREAS:** The Congress of the United States has the ability to require states to
460 implement and fund certain initiatives if necessary, regardless of the
470 funding from a federal agency.

480 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
490 Congress to clarify the National Department of Education's mission
500 focusing it towards an organization which researches educational policy
510 and makes recommendations to the states on proper programming as well
520 as serving as a forum for dialogue on the national status of education;
530 rather than an organization which implements policy save higher education
540 financial aid and grant programs, and;

550 **BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED:** That the Maryland Student
560 Legislature urges the Congress to mandate the National Department of
570 Education to establish necessary regulations to distribute departmental
580 K-12 discretionary funds into block grants for existing state programs.

590 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
600 Vice-President Richard Cheney
610 Secretary of Education Rod Paige
620 Senator Paul Sarbanes
630 Honorable Representative Roscoe G. Bartlett

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