
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29—SENATOR CEGAVSKE

APRIL 28, 2003

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMAN HETTRICK

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Promotes importance of early reading in raising academic achievement. (BDR R-902)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Promoting the importance of early reading in raising academic achievement.

- 1 WHEREAS, The ability to read well is recognized as a basic
2 requirement for the viability of a democratic society to ensure that
3 our children grow up to be imaginative, productive and informed
4 citizens of our state, our country and the world; and
5 WHEREAS, Educators and reading experts generally agree that
6 children who are not able to read at “grade level” by the third grade
7 have difficulties throughout their school years, perform poorly in
8 other subjects and may never graduate; and
9 WHEREAS, Research by the National Institute of Child Health
10 and Human Development indicates that children have a difficult
11 time improving their reading abilities after they reach 9 years of age;
12 and
13 WHEREAS, Failure to learn to read is the primary reason that
14 pupils are retained to repeat a grade, assigned to special education
15 classes or given long-term remedial services; and
16 WHEREAS, Failure to learn to read contributes to alienation from
17 their peers and from society in general, resulting in truancy from
18 school, and in many cases, resulting in the child’s decision to drop
19 out of school altogether; and
20 WHEREAS, Many nationally recognized studies, including the
21 National Research Council’s “Preventing Reading Difficulties in
22 Young Children” and the Learning First Alliance’s report “Every



1 Child Reading: An Action Plan,” indicate that there are basic
2 reading skills that students should acquire during the primary
3 grades, including phonemic awareness, common sound-spelling
4 relationships in words, decoding strategies, vocabulary development
5 and comprehension skills; and

6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that of the approximately 30,000
7 fourth graders in Nevada in the 2001-2002 school year, only 21
8 percent were classified as “at or above proficient” in reading by the
9 National Assessment of Educational Progress; and

10 WHEREAS, It has been determined that the time a child spends
11 reading independently accounts for one-third of the child’s
12 vocabulary growth and that children are greatly influenced by the
13 reading practices of their parents and their peers; and

14 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature has previously worked with
15 the Governor and the dedicated employees of Nevada’s Department
16 of Education in passing legislation to support the Nevada Early
17 Literacy Intervention Program and Nevada’s grant program from the
18 federal Reading Excellence Act; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
20 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature joins with
21 the Department of Education to promote the importance of the
22 fundamental skill of reading and to encourage educators in our state
23 to do all they can to motivate children to expand their knowledge by
24 reading independently; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the greatest gift we can give our children is the
26 love of reading which will expand their world and their
27 understanding of it and which will enrich their lives in untold ways;
28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That parents are able to change the course of their
30 children’s lives by reading to them at an early age, by having their
31 children read to them as their reading skills progress and by taking
32 them to the library to select books which will stimulate their
33 imaginations; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the educators of our state are able to start our
35 children down the road of academic achievement and successful
36 lives by being the catalysts for developing a love of reading that will
37 stay with children throughout their lives and by giving them the
38 tools to succeed in many other areas of their lives; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Department of Education is
40 encouraged to disseminate to our teachers, future teachers and
41 administrators in every facet of education in our state any nationally
42 recognized research on the importance of teaching fundamental
43 reading skills at an early age to give our children the skills they need
44 to excel in their education and in their lives; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to Jack McLaughlin,
3 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

