

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, all state governments and the federal government endorse educational excellence and student achievement as essential to a democratic society; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States enacted Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Impact Aid law) in order to provide funding for local school districts that have lower property tax revenues due to tax-exempt federal lands; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools Act) in order to supplement funding for schools; and

Whereas, funding under the Impact Aid law and the Secure Rural Schools Act is critical for local school districts, which rely on state and local property taxes as a significant source of their funding; and

Whereas, tax-exempt federal lands can greatly reduce the state and local property taxes that support local school districts; and

Whereas, funding to local school districts in Missouri under the Secure Rural Schools Act totaled over three million dollars for the 2013-14 school year; and

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools program expired on September 30, 2014. The absence of reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act has resulted in significantly decreased payments to states; and

Whereas, the 114th Congress has not yet ensured continuation of funding under the Impact Aid law by reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

Whereas, the children of Missouri should not suffer due to federal tax immunities that are distributed in a random and unequal fashion among the local school districts in Missouri; and

Whereas, state and local school districts should retain sufficient educational funding to achieve both federal and state educational goals and mandates; and

Whereas, a sudden loss of funds would significantly damage the ability of state and local school districts to achieve both federal and state educational goals and mandates:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby encourage the 114th Congress of the United States to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools program at its previous funding levels and maintain funding under the Impact Aid law; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.