

House Concurrent Resolution No. 83

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

6111H.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, on December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Every Student
2 Succeeds Act into law; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Every Student Succeeds Act focuses on ensuring that every child
5 receives a quality education; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the Every Student Succeeds Act changes the emphasis in evaluating
8 education from standardized test scores to a wide variety of measures; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri department of elementary and secondary education should
11 embrace the goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act by, for example, ensuring that teachers,
12 students, and parents understand that a test score cannot be the sole measure of a quality
13 education; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the focus on standardized test scores in the past has resulted in harm to
16 thousands of children across the state; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the educational culture in Missouri should be one in which children are
19 motivated to learn and curious about the world rather than one in which children's natural
20 curiosity is ignored in order to achieve certain standardized test scores; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, educators should feel free to speak about any educational culture that they
23 feel has harmed children, including any practices that have subverted the intent of the rules of
24 the department of elementary and secondary education; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, educators should receive protection from retaliation if they speak about
27 such harm to children; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, House Bill No. 2189, recently filed in the ninety-eighth general assembly,
30 second regular session, ensures that educators receive such protection and that certain incentives
31 are not offered for the achievement of particular test scores; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, without the guarantee of such protection from retaliation, educators are
34 unlikely to speak about such harm; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, members of the public should know about the harm that has resulted from
37 the relentless focus on standardized testing, and the educators that have experienced that culture
38 are in the best position to spread that message; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, spreading such message will ensure that the Every Student Succeeds Act
41 brings about the shift in focus away from standardized testing that the law intended and a return
42 to a learning environment in which teachers foster children’s natural curiosity and love of
43 learning:

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45 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
46 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
47 concurring therein, hereby urge the Missouri department of elementary and secondary education
48 to promote a culture in which educators feel free to discuss issues without fear of retaliation and
49 to work together to achieve a quality education for each child without fear of judgment based
50 solely on standardized test scores; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
54 Missouri department of elementary and secondary education.

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