

J. J. PICKLE
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COMMITTEES:
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 17, 1974

Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities
House Education and Labor Committee
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

HR 69 and S 1539, the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments, in my opinion, offer a constructive educational program. I would like to recommend to you certain features in each bill that in my opinion will make an even stronger bill.

1. I would like to see Title I funds include those students in districts where there is the greatest educational needs for the operation of programs for handicapped children; the migrant child for bilingual programs. Such language is in the House version. I would also like to see the funds include a program for gifted and talented children.

2. I recommend the Title V provisions as they are contained in HR 69, strengthening State Departments of Education. Perhaps language could be added that would allow for state department administration in cases where state plans are submitted and are considered by the Commissioner of Education to provide effective approaches to meeting Congressional purposes.

3. I would also recommend the Senate version language for secondary education for adults that would allow up to 25% of the sums available to each state to be committed to secondary programs.

4. I would recommend that funds for special projects, research, and staff development funds be divided--50% of the special project funds be allocated to the states by formula and the remainder be administered by the U.S. Office of Education.

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Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins

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5. I would also recommend that a "hold harmless" clause be added in the authorization legislation.

I have the greatest confidence in the members of this conference committee, and I am making these suggestions in order to provide a more workable bill for the state I know best, Texas; but also because it seems to me that all of these suggestions are in the public interest of all the states.

Sincerely,



J. J. PICKLE

JJP:mc

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