

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2008**

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS LEAD US  
TO SUCCESS (A-PLUS) ACT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the United States Senate and House of Representatives have  
4 introduced S. 893 and H.R. 1539, the "Academic Partnerships Lead Us to  
5 Success Act", known as A-PLUS, which will allow key reforms to the federal  
6 "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" (NCLB); and

7 Whereas, state and federal legislators agree that certain aspects of  
8 NCLB have resulted in cumbersome and unnecessary bureaucracy that diverts  
9 teachers and administrators from their primary function of educating our  
10 children; and

11 Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office determined that state and  
12 local educators and administrators spent 6.7 million work hours in 2006  
13 engaged in the record-keeping and reporting necessary to participate in NCLB;  
14 and

15 Whereas, the compliance mentality that is engendered by NCLB is sapping  
16 educators' time and creativity and is inconsistent with the goal of fostering  
17 innovation in education; and

18 Whereas, while NCLB has provided the necessary framework to measure  
19 progress and hold schools accountable, its rigid approach across the nation  
20 does not allow for the flexibility needed to achieve desired results in every  
21 state, in every school and for every child; and

22 Whereas, the A-PLUS legislation would help states increase students'  
23 academic performance by allowing state "autonomy in exchange for  
24 accountability"; and

25 Whereas, under the A-PLUS legislation, states would have the option of  
26 submitting to the Secretary of Education a declaration of intent to  
27 participate in A-PLUS, which would authorize states to accept full  
28 responsibility for the educational needs of their students; and

29 Whereas, each state that participates in A-PLUS would be allowed to  
30 consolidate funds from some or all federal education programs and pool those  
31 monies with state monies to support innovative programs created at the state  
32 level that reflect the state's own educational priorities; and

33 Whereas, in exchange for this flexibility, a participating state would  
34 be required to meet state performance objectives for improving student  
35 academic achievement and demonstrate a narrowing of achievement gaps. Unlike  
36 NCLB requirements, however, the state would be allowed to measure its own  
37 students' academic progress using a variety of innovative accountability  
38 programs; and

39 Whereas, a requirement that states submit annual reports on student  
40 progress to parents and taxpayers will ensure transparency and accountability  
41 in the process.

1 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of  
2 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

3 1. That the United States Congress adopt S. 893 and H.R. 1539, the  
4 A-PLUS legislation that would allow Arizona to use federal education funds to  
5 support state-created programs to better address the academic needs of the  
6 children of this state.

7 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
8 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
9 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from  
10 the State of Arizona.