

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES  
THAT BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE FAMILY TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT RATHER THAN  
INCREASE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, families are the most important and basic unit of society; and  
WHEREAS, as societies mature, power, responsibility and resources tend  
to migrate away from families and individuals to institutions, most notably  
government; and

WHEREAS, as power and resources migrate away from families, families  
are weakened and harmed; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of functional, or self-funded, families  
is important for the long-term economic and social health of the State of  
Idaho; and

WHEREAS, a functional family provides its own food, clothing, housing,  
health care, transportation and other social services at no cost to other  
taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a family that provides its own social services does so more ef-  
ficiently than government agencies that provide similar services; and

WHEREAS, the increase in government budgets in the last 100 years is  
linked to three main budget areas: health care, education, poverty and en-  
titlement programs; and

WHEREAS, these three budget items were responsibilities historically  
fulfilled by families and other nongovernment organizations; and

WHEREAS, when government provides these services, overhead costs are  
higher while placing a burden on other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, government agencies that compete with functional families by  
providing similar services have a tendency to crowd out the family and under-  
mine family responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, most existing government-funded poverty programs suffer from  
a fatal flaw of trying to redistribute wealth rather than increasing the pro-  
ductive capacity of the poor and needy. The emphasis of such programs is  
on equalizing consumption rather than increasing the productive capacity of  
the poor and needy, so they can become self-sufficient and independent; and

WHEREAS, if there were more functional families in Idaho, state support  
and spending on health care, education, and poverty and entitlement programs  
could either stabilize or decrease, with improved outcomes; and

WHEREAS, so far in the history of the State of Idaho, the Legislature has  
been more successful in funding government poverty programs than in devising  
ways to reengage and empower the family; and

WHEREAS, families need resources and choices in order to become reem-  
powered; and

1           WHEREAS, government cannot decree that families become functional;  
2 families must make this choice on their own. However, government can set up  
3 conditions under which families may choose to accept greater responsibil-  
4 ity; and

5           WHEREAS, the elimination of current programs would cause disruption,  
6 fear and chaos. However, it is the desire of the Legislature to increase the  
7 number of functional or self-funded families; and

8           WHEREAS, as the percentage of functional families increases, so does  
9 societal stability and strength; and, as the number of functional families  
10 decreases, crime, poverty and social problems increase, and the budgets  
11 required to address social ills also increase; and

12           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature wishes to facilitate an increase in the  
13 number of functional families; and

14           WHEREAS, three areas of focus where increasing the role, power and in-  
15 fluence of the family can have great impact are health care, education, and  
16 poverty and entitlement programs.

17           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular  
18 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of  
19 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature encourages health  
20 care policies that increase funding available to families, such as funded  
21 health savings accounts, so that families may decide how to use the funds to  
22 increase access to primary and preventative care.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the adoption of  
24 education policies that empower students and parents including but not lim-  
25 ited to: mastery-based education that allows students to have more control  
26 over what is learned, the speed of learning and the type of learning that  
27 takes place; the growth of career technical education and apprenticeship  
28 programs for high school students so that upon leaving high school they have  
29 the ability to secure good high-paying jobs; and providing other choice pro-  
30 grams in education, both in and outside of traditional public schools, that  
31 allow parents to find the education choice that best fits the needs of their  
32 child.

33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Department of  
34 Health and Welfare to consider the creation of a pilot program with state  
35 funds, so state rules can be followed that will help participants pass  
36 through poverty quickly and reach financial independence, and encourages  
37 the Department of Health and Welfare to find other ways to build the capacity  
38 of the family to self-fund rather than simply increase the size of public  
39 programs.