National Education Association (NEA)
Sara Hedges

National Education Association:
Rid Public Schools of No Child Left Behind Act

I represent the members of the NEA who disapprove of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. We support fair and functional education for students in the public school systems of Montana.

Individual results of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) effect school funding. Schools are required to analyze their budget each year and asses areas where extra funding would be necessary. However, when government funding is cut, these schools must remove faculty and programs that impact students. The result is lowered educational standards and loss of enrollment in schools.

The fundamental purpose of NCLB is to raise test scores and close achievement gaps. The effects of this program are anything but beneficial. Examples include:

- 44 percent of school districts reported cutting time from one or more other subjects or activities
- In the seven years of funding provided for NCLB (Fiscal Years 2002-2008), the cumulative funding gap between actual funding and the amounts authorized in the law has grown to a staggering $70.9 billion. President Bush's proposed FY 09 budget would increase that gap to $85.7 billion.
- Research from 11 states conclude that under NCLB's label-and-punish structure, most schools will fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress by 2014, based on the law's requirement that 100 percent of students achieve proficiency in both reading and math.

As shown above, NCLB is actively damaging education. Undue hardships are being placed on schools that mean to educate our state's children. NCLB must be abolished from our public education system. We must start with the state of Montana. Support must be given to our schools, not taken away.

I will support legislation beneficiary to public schools, and oppose bills that hinder the education process.

Facts cited from NEA.org

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