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**JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
TO FULFILL THE INTENT TO FUND 60% OF THE COSTS OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND TO END UNFUNDED MANDATES**

your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States as follows:

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has found that all children deserve a high-quality education, including children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1400 et seq., provides that the Federal Government and state and local governments are to share in the expense of education for children with disabilities and commits the Federal Government to provide funds to assist with the excess expenses of education for children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has committed to contribute up to 40% of the average per-pupil expenditure of educating children with disabilities and the Federal Government has failed to meet this commitment to assist the states; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has never contributed more than a fraction of the national average per-pupil expenditure to assist with the excess expenses of educating children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, this failure of the Federal Government to meet its commitment to assist with the excess expenses of educating a child with a disability contradicts the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of unfunded mandates by the Federal Government on state governments interferes with the separation of powers between the 2 levels of government and the ability of each state to determine the issues and concerns of that state and what resources should be directed to address these issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government recognized the inequalities of unfunded mandates on state governments when it passed the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, however, the Federal Government continues to impose unfunded mandates on state governments, including in areas such as special education requirements; now, therefore, be it

That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States either provide 60% of the national average

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per-pupil expenditure to assist states and local education agencies with the excess costs of educating children with disabilities or amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to allow the states more flexibility in implementing its mandates; and be it further

That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Congress of the United States revisit and reconfirm the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 and put the intent and purpose of the Act into practice by ending the imposition of unfunded federal mandates on state governments; and be it further

That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.