18

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 312, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT OF WASHINGTON

At the end of title V, add the following:

1 **SEC. _____. POLICY ON FUNDING THE INDIVIDUALS WITH**
2 **DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) PART B**
3 **GRANTS TO STATES.**
4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—
5 (1) with the passage of the Individuals with
6 Disabilities Education Act in 1975, Congress
7 pledged its support for free appropriate public edu-
8 cation for students with disabilities by authorizing
9 federal funds for 40 percent of the national average
10 per-pupil expenditure;
11 (2) in 2004, the reauthorization of IDEA re-
12 affirmed this commitment to special education by
13 creating a funding path to reach this 40 percent
14 commitment by fiscal year 2011;
15 (3) 33 years after the initial passage of IDEA,
16 the federal government has never allocated the fully
17 authorized 40 percent share of funds;
18 (4) Part B grants support services for more
19 than 6.8 million students with disabilities;

1 (5) without sufficient federal funding for IDEA,
2 states and schools must cut resources from other
3 priorities to compensate for the special education
4 shortfall;
5 (6) for FY2008, the final funding level for
6 IDEA Part B Grants to States was $6.856 billion;
7 (7) the FY2008 funding represents only a 1.5
8 percent increase from FY2007; and
9 (8) the FY2008 funding level accounts for less
10 than half (17.2 percent) of the Federal Govern-
11 ment's promised share of the national average per-
12 pupil expenditure.
13 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of this resolution—
14 (1) to fund the Individuals with Disabilities
15 Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grants to States in
16 FY2009 at not less than a 2.5 percent increase over
17 the FY2008 funding level; and
18 (2) that Congress should allocate the sums nec-
19 essary to fully fund the Federal Government's prom-
20 ised 40 percent share of the national average per-
21 pupil expenditure by 2019.