

By: West

S.C.R. No. 25

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The 200th Judicial District Court has ruled that the  
2 state's school finance system is inequitable and unconstitutional;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Concurring with more than 600 school districts that  
5 sued the state over its funding methods, the court found that the  
6 school finance system violates the efficiency provision of Section  
7 1, Article VII, Texas Constitution, because it fails to provide  
8 substantially equal access to revenues necessary to provide a  
9 general diffusion of knowledge; the court further ruled that the  
10 system is not adequately funded and fails to make suitable  
11 provision for its own support and maintenance, and that it  
12 arbitrarily funds districts at different levels and below  
13 constitutional requirements; and

14           WHEREAS, The court also declared that the Texas school  
15 finance system is constitutionally unsuitable for the provision of  
16 a general diffusion of knowledge to low-income and English Language  
17 Learner students; in addition, it ruled that the system has left  
18 school districts without meaningful discretion in setting their tax  
19 rates, thus creating a state ad valorem tax in violation of Section  
20 1-e, Article VIII, Texas Constitution; and

21           WHEREAS, The framers of the Texas Constitution understood the  
22 vital importance of a well-educated citizenry; our state cannot  
23 maintain the vitality of its economy if it continues to fail in its  
24 constitutional obligations to its public schools, and our children

1 should not be asked to wait for the conclusion of an extended  
2 appeals process before the school finance system is reformed in  
3 accordance with the ruling of the 200th Judicial District Court;  
4 now, therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
6 hereby respectfully urge the attorney general of Texas to  
7 expeditiously advance any necessary appeals of the ruling of the  
8 200th Judicial District Court in the school finance case so that the  
9 legislature can undertake and more quickly conclude the difficult  
10 work of resolving the current educational crisis; and, be it  
11 further

12         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an  
13 official copy of this resolution to the attorney general of Texas as  
14 an official expression of the sentiment of the Legislature of the  
15 State of Texas.