

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-128

RE: C.R. NO. 19-205/EDUCATION

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION TO
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$3,885,738 FOR THE FSM DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

MAY 23, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Regular Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred C.R. No.
19-205, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$3,885,738 FROM THE FSM DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND ITS
SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS
WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
2017.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in
its title.

Your Committee recognizes the importance of the education
of our Nation's children, particularly those who face
special challenges. The above referenced grant is an
annual grant application that is well known to your
Committee, as is the good work of the Division of Special

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Education. Your Committee held a hearing on May 20, 2016, with the staff of the Department of Education, including the Secretary of the Department of Education, and the Chief of the Division of Special Education, and their staff, the Office of the President, the Department of Finance and Administration, and a representative from the Department of Justice.

Your Committee notes that the Chief of the Division of Special Education was very articulate regarding his Division's programs, and provided your Committee with a several page detailed summary of their work and budgets. This report is lengthy and available for review with the Committee for the reference of members. The Committee believes that it is worthwhile to highlight that 2,061 students with disabilities are being served in our Nation by 284 education specialists throughout our four states. The program serves young people from birth to 21 years old. It provides services for students in general education classrooms, and it also provides home services for students if appropriate. The budgets for each of the four states under this grant are calculated to be in proportion to the number of students served, and are shown in detail for each state in the attached report.

The total annual amount of the grant award for Special Education has remained the same for the past 16 years. But the Division of Special Education is continuing its work and is working on several new initiatives, including training teachers, and the implementation of initial identification steps prior to screening for disabilities so, for example, children with behavioral issues are not incorrectly categorized as disabled. The Division Chief stated that there are 17 major disability categories, and they mirror those set forth in the U.S. law. From these categories children are evaluated regarding the severity of their disability.

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The annual report prepared for by the Division of Special Education is available on the National Department of Education website. The Committee notes with pleasure that the Division of Special Education continues to submit its grants and grant applications in a timely manner for review and action by Congress.

Finally, your Committee confirmed with the Departments of Education and Justice that the resolution for this grant as transmitted is for the FSM fiscal year 2017. For this reason the Committee recommends the following amendments:

1. Page 1, Line 5 of the title delete "2016" and insert "2017" in lieu thereof.
2. Page 1, Line 5, delete "2016" and insert "2017" in lieu thereof.
3. Page 2, Line 4, delete "2016" and insert "2017" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee has not received only positive communication from the witnesses, but the general public as well regarding the Division of Special Education. Further, your Committee strongly recommends the passage of the resolution authorizing the submission of the special education grant applications that the work of the Division of Special Education can continue smoothly throughout the Nation.

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Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent
and purpose of C.R. No. 19-205 and recommends its adoption
in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-205, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, vice chairman

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member