

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-174

RE: C.R. NO. 19-289/EDUCATION

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$830,030 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

OCTOBER 04, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred C.R. No. 19-289, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$830,030 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO FUND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FEDERAL PROGRAM IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing regarding C.R. No. 19-289 on September 30, 2016. The witnesses present at this hearing were the Secretary of the National Department of Education, and his key staff, and a representative from the Department of Justice.

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The grant funding to be approved by the above referenced resolution provides the primary, almost exclusive fiscal support, for the special education programs throughout the four states. Your Committee has been impressed for many years with the work that this program has done with our most vulnerable and challenging students. During the initial exchange between the Department and your Committee, the Department stated that currently 9,358 children from birth to the age of 21 are served by this program.

Your Committee was also advised that the program utilizes only approximately ten percent of the funding at the national level with over 90% available for the states to use in actual work with the children. The funding for the four states is divided based on the percentage of special needs children in each state. The program continues its work in the schools, and also provides assistance and training in the homes for children who are housebound. The Department stated it would provide a progress report and further details shortly as a report is being prepared currently. Your Committee will provide this to all Members as soon as it is available.

As your Committee is well aware of the many benefits this program provides throughout our Nation, and is satisfied with the management and services of the national and state program activities and performance. One issue was raised with the Department regarding this program. The issue was a delay in the release of funding during the last school year. There is some question as to whether the problem was a result of questioned costs or whether it was the result of the drawn down request not being done in time. The Department was requested to investigate how this delay happened and report back to the Committee.

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As reiterated above, your Committee on Education strongly supports the Special Education Program in our Nation, and therefore, is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-289, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

Florencio S. Harper, member

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