

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1706

To prohibit the Federal Government from planning, developing, implementing, or administering any national teacher test or method of certification and from withholding funds from States or local educational agencies that fail to adopt a specific method of teacher certification.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 1999

Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. FLETCHER, and Mr. TANCREDO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Federal Government from planning, developing, implementing, or administering any national teacher test or method of certification and from withholding funds from States or local educational agencies that fail to adopt a specific method of teacher certification.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Secretary of Education unveiled a na-  
2           tional teacher certification proposal on February 16,  
3           1999.

4           (2) The Texas State Legislature has introduced  
5           legislation to prohibit the use of any standardized,  
6           national certification examination of any teacher.

7           (3) The State of Texas is already implementing  
8           a rigorous framework for preparing, certifying, and  
9           recognizing the professional growth of educators.

10          (4) The State and local governments have the  
11          responsibility for the training and certification of  
12          teachers not the Federal Government.

13          (5) The Coalition of Independent Education As-  
14          sociations (CIEA), which represents the majority of  
15          the over 300,000 teachers who belong to inde-  
16          pendent educators associations, has passed a resolu-  
17          tion opposing the monopolization of teacher edu-  
18          cation and certification by the National Council on  
19          Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or  
20          any other federally supported organization.

21          (6) Having the Federal Government require  
22          States, local governments, or local educational agen-  
23          cies to engage in any type of teacher testing or cer-  
24          tification will require Federal oversight of what  
25          knowledge is necessary to be a teacher.

1           (7) Giving the Federal Government power to  
2 determine what knowledge is necessary to be a  
3 teacher will lead to a national curriculum.

4           (8) National teacher testing or certification will  
5 make teachers de facto employees of the Federal  
6 Government.

7           (9) Establishment of a national curriculum will  
8 destroy any control remaining in the American edu-  
9 cation system and is not in the interest of either  
10 teachers or students.

11 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON TESTING OR CERTIFICATION.**

12           Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law,  
13 the Department of Education is prohibited from using  
14 Federal funds to plan, develop, implement, or administer  
15 any national teacher test or certification.

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING FUNDS.**

17           The Department is prohibited from withholding funds  
18 from any State or local educational agency if such State  
19 or local educational agency fails to adopt a specific method  
20 of teacher certification.

21 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

22           For purposes of this Act:

23           (1) The terms “teacher testing” and “teacher  
24 test” mean any test or examination required by any  
25 unit of government that requires passage of such

1 test or examination as a condition of obtaining a li-  
2 cense to teach.

3 (2) The term “teacher certification” means any  
4 process of education or training required by any unit  
5 of government as a condition of obtaining a license  
6 to teach.

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