

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1614

By Legislative Educational Planning Committee

1-3

9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION concerning early childhood edu-
10 cation programs; requesting the Governor to designate the State Board
11 of Education as the lead agency to administer the Infants and Toddlers
12 with Disabilities Program.
13

14 WHEREAS, The Governor is required by 20 U.S.C. 1435 to designate
15 the lead agency responsible for the general administration and supervision
16 of federally-funded programs and activities providing early intervention
17 services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families; and

18 WHEREAS, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment
19 currently is designated as the lead agency for the administration of the
20 Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislative Educational Planning Committee and
22 the 2010 Commission, pursuant to 2007 House Bill No. 2310, were man-
23 dated to study and make recommendations regarding the creation of a
24 new office of early childhood education to provide for the most coordi-
25 nated system for delivery of early educational services; and

26 WHEREAS, The 2010 Commission was mindful that the Constitution
27 of the state of Kansas provides that the State Board of Education shall
28 have general supervision of all the educational interests of the state; and

29 WHEREAS, The 2010 Commission conducted extensive hearings on
30 early childhood programs provided, or administered, by the state of Kan-
31 sas and school districts located within the state; and

32 WHEREAS, The 2010 Commission recommended that the State
33 Board of Education be designated as the lead agency to administer the
34 Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program and the Legislative Ed-
35 ucational Planning Committee agreed with that recommendation; and

36 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education promotes school readiness
37 and works to enhance the school success of young children through the
38 work of the Early Learning Team within the Kansas Department of Ed-
39 ucation which currently coordinates programs that focus on child learn-
40 ing, family supports, professional development and technical assistance;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, The Early Learning Team within the Kansas Department
43 of Education defines early learning programs as those programs which

1 promote child growth and development with the purpose of enhancing
2 the skills, abilities and knowledge of young children that support their
3 future success in school and in life, and support families by involving
4 family and community members in learning opportunities; and

5 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has adopted a plan for the
6 coordination of early learning programs. The guiding principles of such
7 plan are: Ensuring that parents have the right to choose an early learning
8 program for their child; putting children and families first so that Kansas
9 is the best state in which to raise a child; acknowledging the strong and
10 direct connection between the early years and later success in school and
11 life; providing guidance to local communities so that local decision-mak-
12 ing can be informed and meet the needs of children and families; coord-
13 inating all early learning programs to ensure that all children are healthy
14 and ready to learn when they enter school; and knowing that an essential
15 component of a cohesive and comprehensive statewide system is the re-
16 quired collaboration among all state agencies and organizations; and

17 WHEREAS, The purpose of the plan for the coordination of early
18 learning programs is to enhance the quality of early learning programs
19 and promote the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive early child-
20 hood system. Under the plan, a coherent and cohesive system of delivery
21 of services will increase opportunities for families to find high quality
22 learning environments for their children and incorporate an appropriate
23 accountability system to track successes, increase responsibility for re-
24 sources used and ensure that the young children of Kansas enter school
25 ready to learn; and

26 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education, through its Constitutional
27 and statutory powers, currently has general supervision of the system
28 which delivers special education services to children age three years and
29 older, and by placing the administration of the Infants and Toddlers with
30 Disabilities Program under the supervision and administration of the
31 State Board of Education would promote a coordinated and comprehen-
32 sive system for the delivery of early childhood education services and
33 provide for a seamless transition for children and their families from birth
34 through age 21; Now, therefore,

35 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
36 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Legislature of the state of
37 Kansas requests Governor Sebelius to designate the State Board of Ed-
38 ucation as the lead agency for the administration of the Infants and Tod-
39 dlers with Disabilities Program; and

40 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State is directed to send
41 an enrolled copy of this resolution to Governor Sebelius.