RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING EQUITY IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, equity in education refers to fairness in programs, strategies, and opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, equity is achieved when all students receive the resources they need to graduate prepared for success after high school; and

WHEREAS, significant student achievement gaps still exist for a wide range of sub populations, including but not limited to communities of color, homeless students and foster children and youth, English language learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families during a time when changing national demographics show sizable increases to these student groups over the past fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, there exists a disparity in accessibility to curriculum such as early childhood education programs for low-income and English learning families and high-level courses in math and science for high poverty school districts. Limited access to these curriculums can have dramatic effects on the educational and career outcomes of students; and

WHEREAS, access to high quality teachers is an important measure of success for student learning and achievement, however, high poverty and minority schools have been shown to possess lower proportions of fully accredited and experienced teachers; and

WHEREAS, school districts with greater proportions of low income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners require higher amounts of funding per pupil to adjust for specific learning needs; and

WHEREAS, the majority of school revenue comes from state and local budgets which can create sizable differences in educational spending per pupil and negatively effects the poorest areas of the country. On average, school districts with high poverty rates receive $1,200 less per pupil than those with low poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages the federal Executive and Legislative branches to support funding for programs that promote equity in education among the nation’s schools.

Adopted by The Council of State Governments’ Executive Committee this 16th Day of December, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.