

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Resolution in Support of the) RESOLUTION
School Finance Plan) #89-96

WHEREAS, the instability and unfairness in school finance has plagued Oregon for the past decade. School closures and inequitable funding have received widespread publicity and debate.

WHEREAS, a high quality public education system is of enormous importance to the development of a strong, stable work force and is one of the best hopes for young children seeking greater opportunity.

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide stable, predictable funding, the 1987 Legislature created the Governor's Commission on School Funding Reform, an eleven member commission of seven citizens appointed by the Governor and four legislators to study the crisis in school funding and make recommendations.

WHEREAS, the 1989 Oregon State Legislature approved, subject to voter approval, HJR I (Ballot Measure 1) and SB 802 which constitute the following School Finance Package;

1. \$35 million in targeted tax offsets and grants to school districts with high property tax rate, but low spending per pupil
2. \$35 million in special education funding. This funding will provide for
 - a. regional programs serving students with vision, hearing, and severe orthopedic impairments and/or autism
 - b. reimbursements to districts for up to 50% of the excess costs of educating DD students.
 - c. educational needs of former Fairview clients
3. \$22 million in Basic School Support to assure districts receive the higher of the current distribution formula and the new CPI based formula
4. \$20.3 million in property tax relief through a revamped Homeowners and Renters Relief Program (HARRP) to assure low-income households their existing HARRP payments plus an additional payment assuring that no household would pay in excess of 5% of its income for school property taxes on the first \$60,000 of home value

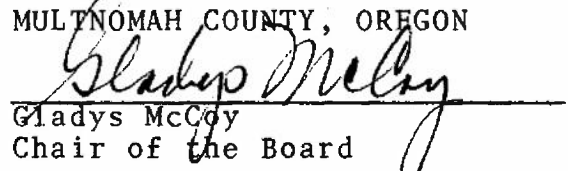
5. establishes a current tax base for every Oregon school district. 100 of Oregon's 303 school districts will get new tax bases. The tax bases in the remaining districts will not be directly affected by passage of this measure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners endorses Measure One, the School Finance Package, and urges voter approval of it on May 16.

Dated this 11th day of May, 1989.



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Gladys McCoy
Chair of the Board