A RESOLUTION

Urging the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to make future funding of the College of Micronesia an immediate priority for his administration, and endeavor to work with the State governments to resolve the issue in the very near future.

WHEREAS, in the Saipan Accords of 1983, the Presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau pledged the support of their Governments for a unified College of Micronesia system after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement; and

WHEREAS, with the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the College of Micronesia is facing a financial crisis due to the loss of United States Department of Interior subsidies and the phase out of revenues from United States post-secondary education student financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, with this impending financial crisis in mind, the Congress, by Congressional Resolution No. 4-129, previously requested President Tosiwo Nakayama of the Federated States of Micronesia to expeditiously seek a summit meeting with the Presidents of the Republics of the Marshall Islands and Palau in order to develop a funding plan for the College during the Compact era; and

WHEREAS, to deal with this matter, President Nakayama established a staff-level working group, which has participated in two rounds of negotiations with counterparts from the Republics of the Marshall Islands and Palau; and

WHEREAS, these negotiations have resulted in agreed principles for a treaty on the subject of a unified College of Micronesia system in the future; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the agreed principles, the Federated
States of Micronesia's share of funding for the College will amount to at least $1.018 million in fiscal year 1988, and will likely be higher; and

WHEREAS, a draft treaty embodying the agreed principles and other necessary provisions will soon be circulated among the three Governments in the hope that a mutually-acceptable agreement can be entered into and submitted for ratification in the near future; and

WHEREAS, despite progress on development of the treaty, uncertainty remains as to how the Federated States of Micronesia will fund any agreed share of the College's operational costs; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the respective National and State Government responsibilities for such funding are unresolved; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, the Chief Executives, in Amendment No. 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding with respect to the Division of Grant Assistance under the Compact of Free Association among the National and State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, have proposed that grants provided by the United States pursuant to section 216(a)(3) of the Compact of Free Association be divided among the State and National Governments for fiscal year 1987, with the National Government's share of $489,740 being dedicated to support of the College, and with future fiscal year apportionments to be determined by mutual agreement after clarification of the College funding situation; and
WHEREAS, the next school year for the College begins in August, and the current fiscal year ends soon thereafter; and
WHEREAS, if the treaty on the College is to be ratified and funding secured to meet the Federated States of Micronesia's obligations under the treaty, such actions must therefore occur in the very near future; and
WHEREAS, there is consequently a pressing need for the National and State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia to expeditiously decide what their respective responsibilities for funding the College will be, and how available resources, including Compact section 216(a)(3) funds, will be applied to that purpose;
now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Fifth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1987, that the Congress hereby urges the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to make future funding of the College of Micronesia an immediate priority for his administration, and endeavor to work with the State governments to resolve the issue in the very near future; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Governor of each State within the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Speaker of each State legislature within the Federated States of Micronesia.

Date: 3/29/87

Introduced by: Dohsis Halbert