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but proposes a fix for the mid-term shortfall of the last two years. "The House solution is a better bill," Boyd said.

"I think enough people are committed to solving the mid-term funding problem that they can work together to find a solution," Coppedge said.

The governor's executive budget seeks to pump some \$3 million into the funding formula, an amount legislative leaders have said is lower than necessary. Coppedge said the shortage has been compensated for by an increase in teachers' retirement funding, also supported by the funding formula. "A large amount has been placed into teachers' retirement," he said. "Where else will teachers get money for teachers' retirement except from the formula money? The money is there, it's just a question of how it will be spent."

Coppedge said he supports the proposed amendment to the bill by Sen. Charles Ford, R-Tulsa. Under the Ford amendment, tabled by Senate members, mid-term funding laws would be returned to pre-1989 status. Schools would qualify for funding when they showed two percent growth or an enrollment increase of twenty new students, whichever is less. "It allows schools to recapture those students," Ford said Tuesday.

"I want to see a plan that comes as close as possible to funding every student," Coppedge said. "There is no reason to think that a growth student should be funded at a lesser rate than a student in a stable enrollment environment."

Kay Floyd, Oklahoma School Boards Association, called the bill "unique," saying state lawmakers should examine similar trends in other states. "Look at what is happening around the country," she said. "A lot of places are experimenting with children. That is not reform."

"What ever we do should help children learn more," she said. "We need to keep that in mind and not pass something just because it is popular."

Calling the measure the next step after HB1017, Floyd urged education leaders to examine the past. "Everyone wants significant reform," she said. "We just need to make sure it's significant."

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZIZES CONGRESS TO EXAMINE THE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT OF 1965

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The 1965 Highway Beautification Act that regulates the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices in areas adjacent to the federal interstate and primary highway system was inspired by late U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson's wife, Lady Bird Johnson. The resolution was enacted as part of an effort to clean up the interstate and primary highway system inundated with advertising billboard signs. Earlier this week, an Oklahoma lawmaker filed a resolution stating that the federal requirements are "overly burdensome" and "have caused undue economic hardships" on small businesses throughout the state.

The 1965 Act stated that outdoor advertising should be controlled in order to protect public investment, promote safety and recreational value and to preserve natural beauty. The act controls the size and location of the signs. HCR1078, authored by Rep. Clay Pope, D-Loyal, memorializes that Congress review the Act to exempt certain businesses and organizations.

The resolution states that an "overwhelming majority" of the interstate and primary highway system in Oklahoma is located in rural areas. For that reason, "most small business owners are not located near the interstate or a primary highway." Pope's resolution contends that those small businesses "strongly rely" on billboard advertising "as a means to attract potential customers."

Rep. Leonard Sullivan, R-Oklahoma City, said 85 percent of jobs are created by small busi-

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