

Reso

2004-0111

INTRODUCED BY: CLAYTON FAUCHEUX, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE, DIVISION B  
BARRY MINNICH, COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT VII

RESOLUTION NO. 5163

A resolution requesting that the Louisiana Congressional Delegation be urged to join with other members of the House and Senate from the South and West in support of legislation that would rectify the regional funding biases and inequities produced by the current LIHEAP distribution formula, which deprives Louisiana families of just and needed funds and which has not been amended since 1985.

WHEREAS, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) were established by Congress to provide block grants to states that can be used to help low income families meet home energy costs and weatherize their homes to conserve energy and reduce further energy bills; and,

WHEREAS, while LIHEAP has been re-authorized by Congress at up to \$3.4 billion per year, it has rarely been funded at more than \$2 billion; and since the program was instituted in 1981, LIHEAP's inflation-adjusted buying power has sagged to 48 percent of its original size; and,

WHEREAS, LIHEAP and WAP are today inadequately funded and thus incapable of addressing the growing energy assistance and conservation needs of low income families; and,

WHEREAS, the formula by which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocates LIHEAP grants to individual states severely discriminates against Louisiana and other southern states by favoring heating needs of people in northern states, ignoring the fact that extreme heat is as detrimental to the health and lives of people as extreme cold; and because the formula is driven by decades-old population, income and energy price data; and,

WHEREAS, the federal Weatherization Assistance Program must be adequately funded to reduce energy consumption and expenditures of families living in substandard, leaky, inefficient housing by permitting them to insulate their homes...which is critical to dealing with the blight of poverty in Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL, hereby urges Louisiana's entire Congressional Delegation to advocate and support federal legislation and appropriations bills that:

- Increase national funding for LIHEAP, to at least \$3.4 billion annually, beginning in Fiscal Year 2005;
- Increase national funding for WAP to at least \$290 billion annually, beginning Fiscal Year 2005;
- Provide for advance funding of both LIHEAP and WAP, so as to enable states to plan more efficiently the distribution of funds for bill payment assistance and weatherization assistance;
- Study the implications for families in Louisiana and other states if LIHEAP and WAP are prevented from keeping pace with growing aging populations, poverty rates and natural gas prices; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Louisiana's Congressional delegation be urged to join with other members of the House and Senate from the South and West in support of legislation that would rectify the regional funding biases and inequities produced by the current LIHEAP distribution formula, which deprives Louisiana families of just and needed funds and which has not been amended since 1985.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MARINO, FABRE, RAMCHANDRAN, WALLS, BLACK, MINNICH

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FAUCHEUX, HILAIRE, DUHE

And the resolution was declared adopted this 22nd day of March, 2004, to become effective five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

LIHEAP-Support Legislation

CHAIRMAN: Larry Mann

SECRETARY: Barbara Jean Tucker

DLVD/PARISH PRESIDENT: March 23, 2004

APPROVED:                      DISAPPROVED:                     

PARISH PRESIDENT: Albert D. Rogan

RETD/SECRETARY: March 23, 2004

AT 3:5pm RECD BY: Bgd