



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program was  
3 authorized by Congress in 1981 to assist low-income households,  
4 particularly those with the lowest income that pay a high  
5 proportion of household income for home energy, in meeting  
6 their immediate home energy needs; and

7 WHEREAS, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
8 (LIHEAP) provides vital heating and cooling assistance to  
9 low-income families, including working poor households, senior  
10 citizens, and persons with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, The LIHEAP program in Illinois is funded through  
12 State and federal appropriations and cash donations on the  
13 local level; and

14 WHEREAS, In Illinois, the winter heating program is  
15 expected to reach approximately 300,000 households this winter  
16 with an estimated \$150 million in State and federal funding;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Due to insufficient funding, LIHEAP has reached  
19 just 15% of the more than 30 million eligible for assistance  
20 nationwide in recent years; and

21 WHEREAS, Federal LIHEAP funding levels for 2006 have not  
22 yet been established; although Congress has authorized \$5.1  
23 billion for LIHEAP, no money has been appropriated; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States Energy Information  
25 Administration announced that Americans nationwide should be  
26 prepared to pay up to 48% more on home heating costs this  
27 winter; in light of rising energy prices, funding at the same  
28 level year after year is not sufficient; and

1           WHEREAS, A national survey of LIHEAP recipients conducted  
2           in 2005 by the National Energy Agency Director's Association  
3           (NEADA) found that 32% of families in the survey sacrificed  
4           medical care, 24% failed to make a rent or mortgage payment,  
5           20% went without food for at least a day, and 44% said that  
6           they skipped paying or paid less than their home energy bill in  
7           the past year; and

8           WHEREAS, In Illinois, winter temperatures average 28.2  
9           degrees Fahrenheit, and an average of 18 deaths are annually  
10          attributed to cold temperatures; therefore, be it

11          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12          NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13          we urge President George W. Bush to support the LIHEAP program;  
14          and be it further

15          RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to  
16          provide an increase in LIHEAP funding to a level sufficient to  
17          keep pace with rising energy prices; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to  
19          President George W. Bush and to each member of the Illinois  
20          Congressional Delegation.