



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The LIHEAP program is a federal program
3 administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and
4 Family Services to help low income households pay for home
5 heating and cooling bills and to reduce energy consumption; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately \$150 million is dedicated to home
7 heating grants, with remaining funds of \$50 million used for
8 weatherization, summer cooling programs, and other energy
9 assistance initiatives; and

10 WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2005, more than \$155 million was
11 granted to over 342,000 households for winter heating needs;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, This winter the Department of Healthcare and
14 Family Services hopes to provide assistance to 315,500
15 households; and

16 WHEREAS, The service target for this winter season is only
17 40% of eligible households, and nearly 474,000 households will
18 go without assistance; and

19 WHEREAS, The spending authority for the FY 2006 program
20 remains at the same level that was in place for FY 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Energy Information Administration
22 announced that Americans nationwide should be prepared to pay
23 up to 48% more on home heating costs this winter; therefore, in
24 light of rising energy prices, funding at the same level year
25 after year is not sufficient; and

26 WHEREAS, Estimates for the current fiscal year indicate
27 that the State will collect \$1 billion in revenue from all
28 public utility taxes, and by diverting 2% of those tax dollars

1 to the LIHEAP program, the State would generate a consistent
2 funding stream of at least \$20 million; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we urge the Governor, in cooperation with the Department of
6 Healthcare and Family Services, to increase State funding for
7 the LIHEAP program in order to provide assistance to more of
8 the households in need; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 delivered to Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Director of
11 Healthcare and Family Services.