SLS 11RS-872 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2011

1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR BROOME

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to sustain home energy assistance for at-risk Louisianians and declares June 2011 as "Save LIHEAP" Month.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the Congress of the United States to sustain home energy assistance for at-
3	risk Louisianians and to declare June 2011 as "Save LIHEAP" Month.
4	WHEREAS, the federal home energy assistance program is of vital interest to the
5	state of Louisiana and to low to moderate income households, especially the elderly,
6	disabled, or young citizens, who struggle disproportionately to afford heating and cooling
7	costs; and
8	WHEREAS, Congress is considering the proposed budget to reduce the fiscal year
9	2012 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) formula grant funding by
10	fifty-seven percent nationally; and
11	WHEREAS, this reduction is disproportionately more damaging in Louisiana,
12	triggering a sixty-seven percent loss, resulting in the life-threatening decrease of thirty-four
13	point seven million dollars to Louisiana; and
14	WHEREAS, due to the loss of these funds, tens of thousands of vulnerable Louisiana
15	citizens will lose access to the LIHEAP's vital energy services; and
16	WHEREAS, more than four hundred and seventy-six thousand Louisiana households
17	meet LIHEAP's stringent income eligibility requirements; and
18	WHEREAS, of these households, one hundred eighty-four thousand shelter someone

1 over the age of sixty, ninety-six thousand are children under the age of six, and one hundred 2 and fifty-four thousand are handicapped individuals, including disabled veterans; and 3 WHEREAS, for a Louisiana family of four to be eligible for LIHEAP, the family 4 must earn no more than twenty-seven dollars per day, per capita; and WHEREAS, although nearly a half-million Louisiana households meet LIHEAP's 5 federal income criteria, only a small fraction of eligible households are actually helped due 6 7 to already limited federal funding; and 8 WHEREAS, Louisiana's ability to reach at-risk families through LIHEAP is entirely 9 dependent upon the provision of adequate funding from Congress; and 10 WHEREAS, home energy assistance is particularly important in Louisiana due to 11 intermittent intense heat and humidity, which is especially threatening to the elderly, 12 disabled, and young citizens; and WHEREAS, if the program's core block grants were reduced as proposed, 13 14 Louisianians would be disproportionately affected, because the national program would be 15 statutorily precluded from considering current population, poverty, and energy price data and 16 mirroring outdated needs of twenty-five years ago; and WHEREAS, unless Congress sustains LIHEAP, Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens 17 18 will be placed at an unnecessarily greater risk. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature hereby declares 20 June, 2011 to be "Save LIHEAP Month" and encourages public and private citizens to join 21 in by encouraging their respective congressional delegation to sustain this vital program at its long-standing national appropriation of five point one billion dollars during federal Fiscal 22 23 Year 2012. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby 24 memorializes the Congress of the United States to sustain home energy assistance for at-risk 25 Louisianians and to declare June 2011 as "Save LIHEAP" Month. 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted 27 to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of 28 29 Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States

30

Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Broome SCR No.

Memorializes Congress to sustain home energy assistance for at-risk Louisianians and declares June 2011 as "Save LIHEAP Month."