

RESOLUTION 3-H.F.No. 325

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to increase funding for the low-income home energy assistance program and to maintain its operation in Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the low-income home energy assistance program in 1981 to provide funds to low-income Americans to help them pay for the costs of energy to heat their homes; and

WHEREAS, since 1986, the funding level for the program has been reduced by approximately \$600 million to a level of \$1.415 billion, while eligibility for the program has been expanded to include energy assistance for household cooling, resulting in financial hardship for many low-income Americans in cold-weather states; and

WHEREAS, the secretary of health and human services has indicated, in a letter to the federal office of management and budget, his intention to reduce program funding by two-thirds, to \$468 million for fiscal year 1992, and to concentrate operation of the program in the six New England states, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, where low-income residents are most likely to use fuel oil for home heating; and

WHEREAS, sharply curtailing the funding and availability of program funds in states, like Minnesota, with harsh climates could result in life-threatening conditions for low-income persons; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the President and Congress should resist efforts to reduce funding for the low-income home energy assistance program and to concentrate its operations in a few selected northeastern states, to the detriment of other cold-weather states like Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should increase the appropriation to the low-income home energy assistance program to reflect the increasing cost of heating fuel and to anticipate events that could further affect its cost and supply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President should support and sign into law legislation enacted by Congress increasing the appropriation to the low-income home energy assistance program and should disavow the efforts of his secretary of health and human services to curtail operations of the program in most of the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of Minnesota shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 9, 1991

Signed by the governor April 11, 1991, 4:32 p.m.