

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 41

1
2 BY FALLON, BERRY, BUKTA, DAVITT, FOEGE,
3 HEDDENS, HOGG, HUNTER, JACOBY, KRESSIG, KUHN,
4 MASCHER, MILLER, OLDSO, D. OLSON, PETERSEN,
5 PETTENGILL, SCHUELLER, SHOMSHOR, SMITH, D. TAYLOR,
6 T. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WENDT, WHITEAD, and ZIRKELBACH
7 A Resolution protesting the proposed reduction in the
8 federal Community Development Block Grant program.
9 WHEREAS, the federal Community Development Block
10 Grant, which helps pay for community action agencies,
11 was begun more than 35 years ago as part of what was
12 called the war on poverty, providing a wide range of
13 housing, nutrition, education, and employment services
14 to low-income people; and
15 WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant
16 program is the cornerstone of the federal government's
17 partnership with state and local governments to
18 provide funding to rehabilitate affordable housing,
19 spur economic growth, and revitalize stagnant
20 neighborhoods; and
21 WHEREAS, as part of a broad reorganization, United
22 States President George W. Bush has proposed
23 eliminating the Community Development Block Grant
24 program in fiscal year 2005-2006 and replacing it with
25 a new program under the jurisdiction of the United
26 States Department of Commerce; and
27 WHEREAS, this new program would consolidate 18
28 existing community and economic development programs,
29 which are providing almost \$6 billion in assistance
30 this year, into a \$3.71 billion "Strengthening

HR 41

1 America's Communities Initiative", representing a 33
2 percent reduction in funding; and

3 WHEREAS, the National League of Cities fears this
4 reduction will seriously hamper efforts by cities to
5 revitalize and rehabilitate aging downtowns, replace
6 and build new affordable housing, reduce environmental
7 hazards, and support a range of jobs programs; and

8 WHEREAS, if implemented, the elimination of the
9 Community Development Block Grant program will have
10 the following impacts in Des Moines, Iowa, according
11 to Des Moines' 2004 Consolidated Annual Performance
12 and Evaluation Report submitted to the federal
13 Department of Housing and Urban Development:

14 9,800 fewer inspections for housing rehabilitation
15 and building code enforcement;

16 8,500 fewer households served by neighborhood site
17 offices;

18 1,295 fewer families receiving home ownership
19 counseling;

20 1,287 fewer homes receiving minor or major
21 rehabilitation;

22 709 fewer homeless people sheltered;

23 90 fewer persons receiving job training;

24 102 fewer households utilizing a tool-lending
25 library;

26 130 fewer people receiving public transportation
27 subsidies;

28 62 fewer affordable housing units constructed;

29 36 fewer neighborhoods having neighborhood clean-
30 ups;

1 30 fewer nuisance properties demolished;
2 8 fewer microenterprises being developed; and
3 No sidewalk, paving, or curb replacement for the
4 Neighborhood Improvement Revitalization Program; NOW
5 THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
7 That the Iowa House of Representatives urges Congress
8 to maintain the current Community Development Block
9 Grant program and maintain its funding at the current
10 level; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
12 House of Representatives send copies of this
13 Resolution to the President of the United States, the
14 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
15 the United States House of Representatives, and
16 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

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