FILED APR 18 2005

RULES & ADMINISTRATION

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY HATCH, DANIELSON, DOTZLER, WARNSTADT, SENG, HANCOCK, RIELLY, WOOD, SCHOENJAHN, CONNOLLY, COURTNEY, QUIRMBACH, GRONSTAL, FRAISE, BLACK, STEWART, RAGAN, BEALL, KREIMAN, and DVORSKY

A Resolution protesting the proposed reduction in the federal Community Development Block Grant program.

WHEREAS, the federal Community Development Block Grant, which helps pay for community action agencies, was begun more than 35 years ago as part of what was called the war on poverty, providing a wide range of housing, nutrition, education, and employment services to low-income people; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant program is the cornerstone of the federal government's partnership with state and local governments to provide funding to rehabilitate affordable housing, spur economic growth, and revitalize stagnant neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, as part of a broad reorganization, United States President George W. Bush has proposed eliminating the Community Development Block Grant program in fiscal year 2005-2006 and replacing it with a new program under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, this new program would consolidate 18 existing community and economic development programs, which are providing almost $6 billion in assistance this year, into a $3.71 billion "Strengthening America's Communities Initiative", representing a 33

SR 44 RULES & ADMINISTRATION

1 percent reduction in funding; and
2 WHEREAS, the National League of Cities fears this
3 reduction will seriously hamper efforts by cities to
4 revitalize and rehabilitate aging downtowns, replace
5 and build new affordable housing, reduce environmental
6 hazards, and support a range of jobs programs; and
7 WHEREAS, if implemented, the elimination of the
8 Community Development Block Grant program will have
9 the following impacts in Des Moines, Iowa, according
10 to Des Moines' 2004 Consolidated Annual Performance
11 and Evaluation Report submitted to the federal
12 Department of Housing and Urban Development:
13 9,800 fewer inspections for housing rehabilitation
14 and building code enforcement;
15 8,500 fewer households served by neighborhood site
16 offices;
17 1,295 fewer families receiving home ownership
18 counseling;
19 1,287 fewer homes receiving minor or major
20 rehabilitation;
21 709 fewer homeless people sheltered;
22 90 fewer persons receiving job training;
23 102 fewer households utilizing a tool-lending
24 library;
25 130 fewer people receiving public transportation
26 subsidies;
27 62 fewer affordable housing units constructed;
28 36 fewer neighborhoods having neighborhood clean-
29 ups;
30 30 fewer nuisance properties demolished;

8 fewer microenterprises being developed; and

No sidewalk, paving, or curb replacement for the Neighborhood Improvement Revitalization Program; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate urges Congress to maintain the current Community Development Block Grant program and maintain its funding at the current level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate send copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Iowa's congressional delegation.