



Amendment # 6

Amendment to CS HB95 (FIN)

Offered by: Rep. Nelson, *Greenberg,*
Kertula

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	Appropriation Items	General Funds	Other Funds
Line 27: Public Assistance	[229,118,900]	[110,546,800]	118,572,100
	237,918,900	119,346,800	

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Allocation

Line 11: Energy Assistance Program	[9,778,600]		
	18,578,600		

Purpose:

This adds \$8,800,000 general funds to the Division of Public Assistance, Energy Assistance program in the Department of Health and Social Services to expand the state's ability to provide energy assistance to low income individuals throughout the state. The state's efforts are currently capped by available funding, leaving many low income individuals without assistance in meeting the high costs of home heating and electricity.

LIHEAP

- Provide assistance to low-income households to offset the high cost of home heating. 26 states have added state money to their LIHEAP programs due to the high cost of energy this year.
- Eligibility is based on income and documentation of what you pay for home heat.
- Income eligibility for a family of four is \$3,024 a month.
- 150 communities all over the state
- 16% Anch.; 12% Wasilla/Palmer; Fairbanks 10%
- 13,979 households assisted last year of which 2063 are elderly and 2312 are disabled. Program reports marked increase in demand of 15 to 20%. Application increase of 18%.
- Extraordinarily high price of oil benefits the state but it is crippling its most vulnerable citizens low income, elderly and disabled.
- Kotzebue avg. grant \$1400. Winter 03-04 bought 735 gals; 04-05 bought 537 gals this winter will only buy 402 gals.
- LIHEAP is a known and working program so instead of creating a new program to assist makes more sense to add money to an existing program.
- Heat is a necessity not an extravagance. We need to do something to help.