

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

Legislative
Resolve No.

35

Source
CSSJR 21(HES)



Urging the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant program established in the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska was awarded a supplemental grant because the state's population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS the supplemental grants included in PRWORA were authorized only through federal fiscal year 2001, while the remainder of the law was authorized through federal fiscal year 2002; and

WHEREAS, because the supplemental grants will expire, Alaska will face a reduction in its TANF funding in the amount of \$6,887,800, or 13 percent of its block grant, starting at

the beginning of federal fiscal year 2002 on October 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant could force Alaska to scale back its welfare reform efforts, which have been very successful in moving people off welfare, into work, and out of poverty; and

WHEREAS the TANF block grant provides a broad range of services to Alaskans through the Alaska temporary assistance program, including cash benefits, child care, case management, job development, job training and placement, program administration, transportation, and other supportive services; and

WHEREAS the TANF block grant provides other essential services to needy Alaskans not receiving welfare, including child care, child protection, victims of domestic violence, the Healthy Family program, pregnancy prevention, and teen parent services; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant will also result in the loss of federal funding to some or all of these programs and services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the United States Congress to continue the TANF supplemental block grants through federal fiscal year 2002, the end of the full TANF authorization period.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Tommy Thompson, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all the other members of the 107th United States Congress.