

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Committee on
Human Resources and Education

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to preserve the
Community Services Block Grant program as an independent
federal program.

WHEREAS, The Community Services Block Grant program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, was created by the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and is designed to provide a range of services to address the needs of low-income persons to ameliorate the causes and conditions of poverty; and

WHEREAS, The money allocated by the program is used to provide services that assist such persons in attaining the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and may also be used to provide the immediate necessities of life such as food, shelter and medicine; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the nation, local governments have created more than 1,080 Community Action Agencies as public or private entities to channel the money provided by the Community Services Block Grant program into communities to coordinate resources and empower communities in rural and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, In Nevada, each dollar received by Community Action Agencies leverages at least \$19 brought in from other sources, and this money is reinvested in the business communities of Nevada, thus enhancing the economic vitality as well as the social fabric of the entire State; and

WHEREAS, Using money provided by the Community Services Block Grant program, Community Action Agencies in this State not only assist low-income persons in obtaining employment, training, education, including participation in Head Start, energy assistance, senior services, and health and nutrition benefits, but the Agencies also acquire the infrastructure to develop affordable housing projects, assist first-time home buyers in paying down-payment and closing costs, and help senior citizens repair their homes; and

WHEREAS, When such activities relating to housing are considered, the leverage for each federal dollar received by the State of Nevada increases up to \$29; and

WHEREAS, The proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2006 recommends the elimination of the Community Services Block Grant program; and

WHEREAS, The elimination of the program would negatively impact not only the residents of Nevada but citizens all across the United States and would significantly hinder the ability of Community Action Agencies and other businesses to improve the

economic viability of families and businesses, hurting those in need and lessening their ability to live a decent life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature urge Congress to preserve the Community Services Block Grant program as an independent program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and to appropriate money for the program for Fiscal Year 2006 that meets or exceeds the funding level for Fiscal Year 2005; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.