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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 249      Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY CAPPABIANCA, VEON, EVANS, LESCOVITZ, TRICH,  
JAROLIN, WALKO, GIGLIOTTI, BUXTON, MARKOSEK, KUKOVICH,  
ROONEY, COLAFELLA, PESCI, LAUGHLIN, DALEY, LaGROTTA,  
TANGRETTI, READSHAW, SANTONI, DeLUCA, STABACK, RUDY, MUNDY,  
CURRY, OLASZ, VAN HORNE, JOSEPHS, McCALL, TIGUE, MANDERINO,  
FAJT, BATTISTO, SAINATO, LEVDANSKY, KIRKLAND, BOSCOLA,  
SCRIMENTI, ITKIN, M. COHEN, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, SHANER AND  
RAMOS, NOVEMBER 1, 1995

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1995

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing Congress to reject the proposed Federal budget  
2 cuts and to adopt a Federal budget which considers concerns  
3 of the states.

4 WHEREAS, Congress is considering Federal budget cuts which,  
5 according to the Wharton Econometric Forecasting Association  
6 (WEFA), may result in the loss of 155,000 jobs by the year 2002  
7 for this Commonwealth alone; and

8 WHEREAS, According to WEFA, Pennsylvania is one of the top 15  
9 states impacted by the United States House of Representatives'  
10 seven-year plan; and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's annual budget typically consists of  
12 1/3 of Federal funds, and any reduction in that amount will  
13 significantly reduce this Commonwealth's ability to best provide  
14 for its citizens' health, safety and welfare or to improve its  
15 business climate; and

1       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the nation's second-largest elderly  
2 population and over 2 million citizens enrolled in Medicare, and  
3 under the proposed Federal budget cuts, Pennsylvania's seniors  
4 will have to pay an additional \$10 billion in Medicare premiums  
5 over the next seven years; and

6       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania will lose an estimated \$74 million in  
7 LIHEAP funds in 1996 despite the great demand for this program  
8 which saves the lives of many, especially the elderly, during  
9 cold winters; and

10       WHEREAS, According to the United States Office of Management  
11 and Budget, the proposed Federal cuts in financial aid will  
12 result in 14,100 students being denied Pell Grants in 1996 to  
13 assist with rising college tuition costs; and

14       WHEREAS, With the elimination of AmeriCorps, the volunteer  
15 service program, and summer jobs programs, 2,100 youths will be  
16 denied the opportunity to volunteer and 21,700 youths will be  
17 without a meaningful employment in 1996 and furthermore over the  
18 next seven years 152,000 youths will be denied the opportunity  
19 to volunteer and will be without a meaningful employment  
20 opportunity; and

21       WHEREAS, Any reduction in the earned income tax credit for  
22 working families will result in a tax increase and will cause  
23 more working families to go without the basic necessities while  
24 the wealthy and businesses collect on their tax breaks; and

25       WHEREAS, According to the National Association of State  
26 Boards of Education, Pennsylvania will lose more than \$96  
27 million in major educational program funding in 1996 under the  
28 United States House of Representatives proposal; and

29       WHEREAS, According to HUD, Pennsylvania will lose over \$100  
30 million in Federal housing funds in 1996; and

1       WHEREAS, The proposed Federal budget cuts target our most  
2 vulnerable citizens, seniors and children, but give generous tax  
3 breaks to the wealthy; and

4       WHEREAS, Programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, LIHEAP, student  
5 financial aid, job training for welfare recipients and job  
6 safety enforcement by OSHA are vital to the livelihood of many  
7 Pennsylvanians and to the future of this Commonwealth; and

8       WHEREAS, Congress should not consider such drastic Federal  
9 budget cuts without first fully comprehending the ramifications  
10 to their constituents; therefore be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Congress,  
12 and especially the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, to  
13 oppose the drastic budget cuts being proposed at the expense of  
14 the most vulnerable citizens; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge its members  
16 to make their concerns known to Congress; and be it further

17       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the citizens  
18 of this Commonwealth to make their concerns known to Congress by  
19 writing, visiting their offices, telephoning and forming grass  
20 roots campaigns to oppose the Federal budget cuts; and be it  
21 further

22       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Governor  
23 Thomas J. Ridge to take an active role in articulating to  
24 Congress the detrimental effect such Federal budget cuts will  
25 have upon this Commonwealth and upon its citizens; and be it  
26 further

27       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
28 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the  
29 presiding officers of each chamber of Congress, to the  
30 Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and to Governor Thomas J.

1 Ridge as an indication of the Pennsylvania House of  
2 Representatives' commitment to ensure a prosperous future for  
3 Pennsylvania and its citizens.