

Resolution to Endorse the Alexander-Dodd-Kennedy Amendment to Increase Funding of Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and for the Department of Health and Human Services to Conduct a Program Evaluation of LIHEAP

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) recognizes adequate utility service to be a necessity, key to the health and safety of American households; *and*

WHEREAS, The severe constraints on State budgets and the increased strain on the nation's support system provided by nonprofit, faith-based, and other community organizations, have limited the resources available for energy assistance; *and*

WHEREAS, The Congress is considering measures to increase LIHEAP funding to \$3.4 billion for each of the fiscal years 2004-2006; *and*

WHEREAS, The collection of national data regarding the benefits of LIHEAP and the ability of the program to reduce utility arrearages and shut-offs among low-income households would greatly enhance the ability of policymakers to evaluate the financial resources required to adequately meet the need for LIHEAP funding; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That NARUC conceptually supports the provisions of the legislation that call for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a study to evaluate the performance of LIHEAP; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2003 Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, endorses reauthorization of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act and the Alexander-Dodd-Kennedy Amendment to increase LIHEAP funding; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC General Counsel be directed to file and take any appropriate actions to further the intent of this resolution.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 18, 2003

Adopted by NARUC Convention November 19, 2003