

**INCREASING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH
VISA REFORMS, ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS AND PROMOTION**

WHEREAS, travel is one of America's leading exports, generating \$107.8 billion in 2006, and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism creates one of the nation's only balance of trade surpluses (\$7.2 billion in 2006), and

WHEREAS, international travelers are 74 percent more likely to have a favorable opinion of America and Americans after having visited, and

WHEREAS, international travelers are 61 percent more likely to have a favorable opinion of our nation's policies after having visited, and

WHEREAS, travel to the U.S. from overseas destinations has yet to rebound to pre-9/11 levels, and

WHEREAS, the world travel market is expanding, the U.S. share has declined 35 percent over the past 15 years,

WHEREAS, international travelers are increasingly deterred from traveling to the U.S. because of U.S. visa policy and entry procedures, and

WHEREAS, the United States spends virtually no money to communicate its improvements in travel-related policies and procedures or to promote the U.S. as a destination of choice abroad, and

WHEREAS, U.S. mayors, in conjunction with local destination marketing organizations, spend significant funds on promoting their cities domestically and overseas, and in turn see substantial returns on their investments, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress, in concert with homeland security, to implement common-sense visa policy reforms, including the reduction of interview wait times, the use of advanced technology for visa interviews and the strengthening and expansion of the Visa Waiver Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to improve America's welcome at U.S. ports-of-entry, including expansion of the model

airports program, enhanced customer service training of Customs officials and implementation of an international registered traveler program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to initiate a coordinated communications and promotion campaign to help increase international travel to the United States.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE
(WHTI)**

WHEREAS, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is an important measure for securing our nation's borders and protecting America's cities and citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State have sufficient time to securely and efficiently implement these regulations at our land and sea borders; and

WHEREAS, Canada is our largest trading partner and closest ally, accounting for more than 30 percent of all inbound travel to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed and the President signed into law FY2007 DHS Appropriations bill, which included provisions to extend the WHTI deadline at land and sea ports-of-entry until certain criteria, including the proper testing of document technology and infrastructure at the borders, have been met; and

WHEREAS, the FY2007 DHS Appropriations bill granted DHS and the State Department additional time (up to June 1, 2009) to achieve the necessary criteria; and

WHEREAS, the testing phase of an alternative travel document, the passport card, will not be fully tested until (at the earliest) spring 2008; and

WHEREAS, the pilot project in Washington state to enhance driver's licenses as an acceptable and secure document to meet WHTI requirements is still underway; and

WHEREAS, passport demand is exceeding the State Department's ability to facilitate passport issuance in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, neither security nor efficiency should be sacrificed at America's borders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State to utilize the additional time granted by Congress to meet the Congressional criteria and execute a coordinated public-private outreach campaign to potential American and Western Hemisphere travelers before implementing WHTI at land and sea ports-of-entry.

**URGING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL
AGREEMENT TO EXPAND LEISURE GROUP TRAVEL FROM CHINA TO THE
UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS according to the Travel Industry Association, travel and tourism generates \$104.9 billion in tax revenue for local, state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS international travelers spent \$102.6 billion in the United states in 2005; and

WHEREAS with its rapid economic growth over the past decade, the increase in Chinese outboud travel has more than triple in the past five years; and

WHEREAS China's Ministry of Public Security estimates that in 2006, 34.5 million Chinese from Mainland China traveled to foreign destinations, such as Japan, Korea, Thailand and other Southeast Asian Countries, Europe and Russia; and

WHEREAS while many Chinese travelers would like to visit the United States, the major hurdle lies in the U.S. visa process, which requires all visa applicants to be interviewed in person by U.S. consular officers; and

WHEREAS there are only five U.S. consulates in the entire Mainland China, thereby making it extremely difficult for many would-be travelers to obtain the necessary visas to visit the U.S.; and

WHEREAS the Chinese government has developed a well-managed, orderly and controlled system of travel abroad for a greater number of its citizens by granting Approved Destination Status (ADS) to countries under a bilateral agreement whereby a foreign government allows Chinese tourists to travel to its territory; and

WHEREAS over one hundred countries have entered into such agreements, have been granted ADS and have experienced a substantial increase in the number of Chinese tourists visiting their countries; and

WHEREAS if the U.S. were to enter into a bilateral agreement that will make leisure group less restrictive , more Chinese tourists will be able to visit the U.S. thereby establishing a win-win relationship between China if the U.S.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Bush Administration to enter into a bilateral agreement with China to expand Chinese group leisure travel to the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages the US Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce to streamline the visa application process for Chinese group leisure travelers to the United States."

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with the United States Conference of Mayors conducted the third national economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in 156 communities in every state in the United States in 2006; and

WHEREAS, it was found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity annually, which supports 5.7 million U.S. jobs in communities ranging from large urban to small rural—an increase of 850,000 jobs since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts and culture industry annually returns \$12.6 billion in federal income taxes, \$9.1 billion in state government revenue and \$7.9 billion in local government revenue; and

WHEREAS, this new Arts and Economic Prosperity III study collected extensive survey data from 6,080 arts and culture organizations and 94,478 of their attendees; and

WHEREAS, data collected from the 94,478 attendees at a range of events reveal an average spending of \$27.79 per person, per event—in addition to the cost of admission—generating \$103.1 billion of valuable revenue for local merchants and their communities annually; and

WHEREAS, 39 percent of audience attendees are non-local—living outside of the county—and spend more than twice that of their local counterparts: \$40.19 vs. \$19.43 per person; and

WHEREAS, findings from Arts and Economic Prosperity III study reveal that America’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year—\$63.1 billion in spending by arts and culture organizations and an additional \$103.1 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences—resulting in a significant benefit to the nation’s economy:

Total Expenditures	\$166.2 billion
Full-Time Jobs	5.7 million
Household income	\$104.2 billion
Local Government Revenue	\$7.9 billion
State Government Revenue	\$9.1 billion
Federal Income Tax Revenue.....	\$12.6 billion

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the conclusions of the Arts and Economic Prosperity III study and urges mayors across the country to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through their local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

FUTURE OF PRIVATE SECTOR GIVING TO THE ARTS IN AMERICA

WHEREAS, the National Arts Policy Roundtable, a distinguished group of high profile private executives and public officials, identified the following actions that the government sector could do to positively influence private sector giving to the arts; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and where appropriate, local government could enact or adopt charitable tax legislation, regulations and policies that support the arts, such as exemption from income and sales taxes, tax deductibility for charitable gifts, tax-free gifts from retirement accounts, enhanced deductibility for artists' business expenses, and sensible regulatory regimes that promote voluntary service; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments could modify or create zoning ordinances encouraging economic development and community revitalization through the arts; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments could enact policies and legislation that provide funding support to the arts and arts education, and encourages private sector matching funding; and

WHEREAS, local governments could include private development in existing percent-for-art ordinances and programs, or establish new ordinances that include both public and private development; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments could engage with partners in the private sector and the nonprofit community to declare literacy in the arts as a key educational goal for the 21st century - as central to an educated citizenry as reading, math and science; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments could strengthen arts literacy for every child by supporting national, state and local standards in the arts, arts standards for teachers, and efforts to address disparities in the delivery of high quality arts education in urban, rural and high-minority or economically disadvantaged schools; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments could adopt policies and enact legislation that ensure that the arts are implemented as part of the core curriculum in our nation's schools, and an integral part of every child's preparation for

work and life in the new creative economy. Such policies could support comprehensive strategies for achieving arts literacy for every child through: Rigorous, sequential arts instruction in the classroom, Participation and learning in high quality community based arts programs with artists and arts organizations, and the use of the arts in developing 21st century workplace skills; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to consider these recommended arts policy strategies to help stimulate private giving to the arts and arts education in America.

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states - through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations - have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors' national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 40,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 4,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2007 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND MUSEUMS

WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's forty years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 40,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 4,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal funding leverages up to 7 times more from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the world; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country – the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and more than \$800 million annually in local government funding and more than \$350 million in state government funding to the arts and humanities; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA has undergone a major restructuring of its grants programs to more directly reach and help build communities across the nation through its Challenge America grant program; and

WHEREAS, although the federal cultural agencies have received small funding increases in an effort to begin restoring the devastating 40 percent cuts made in 1995, major increases are still needed to address the growing needs of our cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed a modest increase funding for the NEA and NEH; and

WHEREAS, the delicate balance in shared responsibility and partnership for public funding of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local government levels has been in serious jeopardy since local governments cannot make up for the current funding cuts in the federal government's share; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions and issued official letters in the past on Arts Advocacy Day to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House, signed by more than 200 of the nation's mayors, to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts (and specifically the valuable Challenge America program), National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to restore full funding for these agencies in the FY'08 appropriations bills.

SUPPORT FOR CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

WHEREAS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) supports public television through its partner, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). A trusted community resource, PBS brings quality programs and education services to nearly 100 million people each week; and

WHEREAS, with community-based arts programming and nationally televised shows, PBS is often the only source of arts programming in many rural parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, Public television airs arts programming that is not available on commercial television. For example, the *Legends of Jazz* television series on PBS marked the first time in 40 years that jazz has been the focus of a national network weekly series; and

WHEREAS, proposed cuts in the President's budget will weaken National Public Radio (NPR) stations and thus the availability of high-quality arts programming. CPB funding represents an average of 13 percent of the budget for individual member stations of NPR. If NPR loses CPB support, many stations will have to make severe cuts to their programming and local services. This will especially impact rural areas and stations serving minority populations, as these stations heavily rely on federal funding for their operating budgets. While local and state arts agencies also support these stations, they could not make up for a loss of federal funding on this scale; and

WHEREAS, Congress should reject the Administration's proposed funding cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. Any reduction in CPB's budget will drastically reduce the access that many Americans have to public broadcasting, and thus to high-quality arts and cultural programming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors, joins a broad coalition of public broadcasting supporters with this request to urge Congress to support a budget of no less than \$430 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) as part of the FY08 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

**SUPPORTING ISSUANCE OF POSTAL STAMP IN HONOR OF MAYOR TOM
BRADLEY**

WHEREAS, the unsung heroes of the governing of this nation are the thousands of local elected government officials, Mayors, Council members and Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the nation honor the service of these dedicated officeholders by issuing a postal stamp in honor of one of their rank: former Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bradley's career was the implementation of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and 70's. After 21 years of service to the Los Angeles Police Department, he retired with the rank of lieutenant in 1961 and began to practice law. In 1963 he ran for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council. He won and served for 10 years before becoming the city's 37th Mayor in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bradley opened the doors of city hall; his staff and administration appointees represented the rich cultural fabric of the city. He attracted businesses to the city and established policies that resulted in the dramatic resurgence of the downtown Los Angeles economic center. He turned the city's harbor and airports into top-of-the-line businesses, expanding the number of people employed and the city's ability to compete in a world market; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bradley also focused his attention on creating economic opportunities both for the inner city, as well as the entire city, where he put forward affordable housing and fair planning policies; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bradley's achievements as the first African American Mayor of a large metropolitan area helped to transform municipal government throughout our nation and gave new stature for city leaders on the international scene; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Tom Bradley's record of service to Los Angeles and to the nation is so exceptional that it is especially fitting that the achievement and legacy of this great man be marked by the issuance of a special commemorative U.S. Postal Stamp in his honor,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the national interest in commending the

dedicated service which all local elected officials provide to the nation through the issuance of a commemorative U.S. Postal stamp in honor of Mayor Tom Bradley, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be submitted to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service in support of the Committee's approval of the issuance of such a commemorative stamp.

**THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE URBAN PARK AND
RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) return conservation and recreation funds to states and local governments; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR have been responsible for more than 40,000 community parks; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR have been integral to a healthy and safe urban community life through funding municipal parks, and creating urban soccer, baseball, and football fields; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR encourage and promote healthy lifestyles, an area of growing concern; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR promote smart growth and livable communities; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR are critical resources for providing recreation places for America's young people; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR advance economic and job development in cities; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR provide opportunities for safe, accessible parks and recreation areas, leading to increased physical activity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress restore funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund's stateside program at no less than the \$100 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress fund the UPARR at no less than \$30 million.

COMBATING THE EMERALD ASH BORER IN OUR NATION'S CITIES

WHEREAS, the ash tree, which makes up six percent of the nation's forests and parks, provides an urban canopy for America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the emerald ash borer has devastated ash trees throughout the country, costing cities millions of dollars to remove and replace infested ash trees; and

WHEREAS, in fewer than five years, the emerald ash borer has infested more than thirty million ash trees in America and continues to pose a threat to the nation's remaining eight billion ash trees; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has instituted a federal quarantine on all timber from ash trees in Michigan's lower peninsula, Illinois, Indiana, Prince George's County, MD, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the states mentioned above, Maryland and Virginia have also reported outbreaks of the emerald ash borer; and

WHEREAS, although cities are working to develop action plans to help combat the spread of the emerald ash borer, more resources are needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the United States Congress should provide cities and localities all the necessary resources to help remove and replace trees infested by the emerald ash borer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress also must work with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the U.S. Forest Service and other relevant agencies to insure that future outbreaks of the emerald ash borer do not occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Federal Government should work with cities and local governments to help increase public awareness programs on emerald ash borer infestation, so as to help prevent future outbreaks from occurring.

**SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO COMBAT GLOBAL PIRACY AND
COUNTERFEITING OF GOODS**

WHEREAS, intellectual property (music, movies, TV programs, home video, books, computer software) brings in more international revenues than agriculture, aircraft, automobiles and auto parts and it is responsible for over five percent of the GDP. Intellectual property is creating new jobs at three times the rate of the rest of the economy; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates place the impact on the United States economy of global piracy and the counterfeiting goods at nearly \$250 billion a year and nearly 4.6 million jobs lost; and,

WHEREAS, local governments are impacted in three ways by the counterfeiting of intellectual property and goods, a loss of tax revenue, money spent on enforcement and the relationship between counterfeit goods and gang activity; and

WHEREAS, most fraudulent products are bought in the black market where the transactions go unrecorded and untaxed, thereby nullifying tax dollars that should be spent on vital city services, local governments also lose tax revenue - income tax, sales tax, payroll taxes - when workers are laid off by firms that face competition from fraudulent goods; and

WHEREAS, local government pay for police who investigate piracy, the court time to prosecute counterfeiters, and the jail space to house convicted counterfeiters, which depletes resources to fund vital city services; and

WHEREAS, under current law counterfeiters can earn more money, with a lower risk of capture and lighter sentences if they are prosecuted than bank robbers, which has led to an increase in the involvement of organized crime in counterfeiting, and often serves as a gateway to gang activity; and

WHEREAS, there is no legitimate purpose for a person taking copyrighted material not legally available to the public in any form, and putting it on the Internet or duplicating it for free distribution without authorization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the US Conference of Mayors commit to making the enforcement of all relevant laws against the illegal manufacturing and distribution

of pirated movies, music, software and other intellectual property a municipal priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the US Conference of Mayors commit to adopt and implement policies, procedures and ordinances incorporating an Acceptable Use Policy on all city owned computer networks, governing procurement policies and practices ensuring that the purchase of hardware and software incorporates the latest content protection and anti-piracy components, and blocking illegal Peer-to-Peer applications and access to pirate sites from city-owned computers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and State Governments to increase piracy enforcement resources and make piracy enforcement a priority at all levels of law enforcement; develop programs and raise awareness among judges about the critical threat posed by intellectual property piracy to the local, state and national economies.

2016 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has been selected by the United States Olympic Committee as the US Applicant City for the upcoming international competition to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

WHEREAS, the United States is anxious to serve the Olympic Movement by embracing and celebrating the Olympic Games;

WHEREAS, the Olympic and Paralympics Games represent the best of the human spirit and Chicago 2016 and the United States Olympic Committee are committed to bringing the 2016 Olympics and Paralympic Games to America for the benefit of all and to inspire harmony locally, nationally and globally;

WHEREAS, Chicago and other cities in the United States already hold a place in the international community as a city of immigrants from around the world eager to be ambassadors to visiting Olympic athletes;

WHEREAS, hosting the Games in the heartland of the country will provide a great opportunity to enhance the development of Olympic Sport in the Midwest and across the nation;

WHEREAS, Chicago, one of the finest cities in the United States, is a world-class city with remarkable diversity, culture, history and people;

WHEREAS, the organization of the 2016 games would be centered around the athlete, placing the vast majority of them within a fifteen minute drive of their competition venues;

WHEREAS, the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Chicago would provide a spectacular experience for all, celebrating the Games in the center of the city, along its Lakeshore and in its parks, with its cultural and leisure activities virtually steps away, and in the midst of millions of sport-passionate people who will create an energetic spirit inside and outside of the venues;

WHEREAS, Chicago is one of the transportation hubs of the world and can provide accessible transportation to international visitors through extensive rail, transit, and

motorways infrastructure, combined with the world-class O'Hare and Midway International airports;

WHEREAS, Chicago 2016 and the United States Olympic Committee encourages federal outreach to the Executive Branch and Congress to ensure the full participation of the United States government in Chicago's pursuit to win the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games ;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the United States government and the American people to support Chicago as it competes for the privilege to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and that the assistance of all United States Mayors be called upon by the USCM to enhance Chicago's efforts.

**REFORMING FEDERAL PROGRAMS SO THAT THEY BETTER HELP
FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS REACH AND MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SELF-
SUFFICIENCY**

WHEREAS, many existing federal government programs intended to help low-income individuals and families reach economic self-sufficiency are not easily accessible or understandable to the populations that could benefit from them; and

WHEREAS, many existing federal government programs intended to help low-income individuals and families reach economic self-sufficiency are not compatible with one another because they are administered by many different federal agencies and have significant differences in eligibility and enrollment processes; and

WHEREAS, the rules governing many federal programs require that individuals receiving benefits are no longer eligible for those benefits when their household income increases even modestly; and

WHEREAS, the nation's poverty system has not kept pace with the latest developments in technology and, as a result, low-income citizens stand in line at counters to receive benefits while the rest of the world is moving faster with new technology; and

WHEREAS, many of the discretionary federal programs intended to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency are able to help only a very small portion of those who are eligible to receive them, and many of the entitlement programs intended to assist these same people provide very low benefit levels; and

WHEREAS, there is a widening income gap despite government programs which are helping low-income families lift themselves above the poverty line, and many more low-income families are falling further behind, while the nation's top earners are gaining a larger share of total income; and

WHEREAS, estimates by the Congressional Budget Office indicate that \$11 billion in child support payments will go uncollected over the next 10 years as a result of cuts to child support enforcement funding included in the Deficit Reduction Act, including elimination of the federal match

on performance-based incentive funds and reduction of the federal match on paternity testing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to provide ample funding for existing programs benefiting low-income families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on the federal government to:

- Ensure that low-income populations can easily access the tools they need to reach economic self-sufficiency;
- Streamline and simplify programs to enable more of those who are eligible for them to effectively and efficiently take advantage of them;
- Adopt standard, complementary eligibility guidelines for income support programs, and ensure that government anti-poverty programs are broad enough to include middle class families at risk of slipping into poverty;
- Reinvent the delivery mechanisms for the nation's income support programs by using the latest technology and new systems to reach low-income families, and ensure that they receive the full spectrum of benefits for which they are eligible;
- Make resources available for coordinated and expanded outreach efforts which connect families to the work supports that they are eligible to receive, including the EITC, food stamps, Medicaid, energy assistance, and childcare assistance, through robust community-based centers;
- Restore federal funding for child support enforcement, including the match for performance-based incentive funds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors further urges that federal policies be revised to encourage upward mobility without the threat of withdrawal of services when a modest increase in household income occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all levels of government and the private sector identify opportunities to develop collaborative solutions for targeting and serving low-income populations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayors compile, exchange and implement best local practices.

PROVIDING FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL

WHEREAS, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and

WHEREAS, more than 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and

WHEREAS, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and

WHEREAS, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of our urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and

WHEREAS, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both reading and mathematics than higher income children, and they make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, doing so at twice the overall rate; and

WHEREAS, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and

WHEREAS, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult,

and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and

WHEREAS, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating, and the Council of the Great City Schools reports that in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas, fewer than one-half of entering ninth graders graduate high school within four years; and

WHEREAS, as a result millions of young Americans reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success, as the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and

WHEREAS, educational attainment is the best predictor of economic success for an adult, and research shows that children who enter K-12 schools with no previous classroom time are less prepared to learn than children who attend preschool programs; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that investment in early childhood development programs brings a real (inflation adjusted) public return of 12 percent and a real total return, public and private, of 16 percent; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education benefits taxpayers through reduced need for welfare assistance, increased income tax revenue, less burden on the criminal justice system, and fewer children needing remedial education services; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that children who do not receive an early education are more likely to struggle as young adults and as adults, score more poorly on achievement tests, have children as teenagers, engage in criminal activity, and face chronic unemployment; and

WHEREAS, a recent study indicates that governmental investment in high quality, universal preschool could add more than \$2 trillion to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2080; and

WHEREAS, Head Start successfully provides early education and wrap-around services to needy youth and their families who hope to move into the middle-class, but the current

federal investment in the program serves only 60 percent of eligible three- and four-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, access to preschool and early education will help make the United States more globally competitive and secure in its future; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Conference of Mayors have previously adopted resolutions supporting investment in early childhood education and preschool,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal and state governments to work with local governments to provide universal and standards-based preschool and early education to all families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all regulated early care and education program settings be included in this universal preschool and early education system if they can demonstrate that they meet local, state, and federal quality standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges that in addition to expanding access to quality preschool programs, the hours of service of these programs be extended to accommodate the schedules of working families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages the continued support of the Head Start program, which provides additional services for families in need above and beyond preschool education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government provide additional funding for Head Start to support a full-day option and raise the income threshold for Head Start eligibility.

**REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children increased by 294,000 to almost 9 million from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, children without coverage are more likely to go without immunizations, and end up in emergency rooms when conditions could have been addressed sooner at the primary care level; and

WHEREAS, uninsured children get less medically necessary care, and are more likely to have unmet needs for care; and

WHEREAS, estimates are that 70 percent of all uninsured children are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage under Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); and

WHEREAS, many children are eligible for coverage but are not enrolled in existing programs because of bureaucratic barriers that make it difficult to obtain or keep coverage, are excluded from programs or go uninsured when their parents change jobs, or receive varying levels of services because program benefits vary from state to state; and

WHEREAS, SCHIP provides coverage to children in low-income families whose income exceeds Medicaid income eligibility limits; and

WHEREAS, every state has an SCHIP program, and SCHIP has not only been successful in covering newly eligible children but also in triggering major improvements in Medicaid that allowed millions of uninsured children who had been eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled to gain coverage and access to care,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize and expand the State Child Health Insurance Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors commends Congress for seeking an additional \$50 billion (for FY 2008 - FY 2012) as part of the FY 2008 Budget Resolution for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This important deficit-neutral funding would cover millions of children without health insurance

in this country and we urge that Congress and the Administration approve the \$50 billion for this purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration, Congress and the States to ensure that all children and pregnant women have health insurance coverage including:

- Strengthening the current Medicaid and SCHIP programs to significantly narrow the disparities in income eligibility for children in different states. Children deserve a national health care safety net;
- A national benefit package that guarantees that children in every state receive all medically necessary health, mental health and dental services;
- Streamlined mechanisms for enrollment and active outreach to eligible but not enrolled children;
- Guaranteed coverage and elimination of waiting lists;
- Assurance that states would incur minimal cost for expanding coverage and enhancing benefits or for increasing provider reimbursement to ensure that eligible children are covered and coverage is maintained; and
- Assurance that insurance coverage is maintained for all who currently receive insurance including eligible parents and children, and especially pregnant women.

PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the number of people without health insurance coverage increased by 1.3 million to 46.6 million - 15.9 percent of the population - between 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance declined slightly - from 59.8 percent to 59.5 percent - between 2004 and 2005, while the percentage of people covered by government health insurance remained at 27.3 percent during the same period; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children increased by 400,000 to 8.3 million from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, if one breadwinner in a middle class family has significant medical bills due to lack of health insurance, that family is at high risk of slipping into poverty, thus making many middle class families one accident or illness away from a catastrophe,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for the repair of the nation's health insurance system so that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care.

MAKING TANF WORK REQUIREMENTS MORE FLEXIBLE

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006, President George W. Bush signed budget legislation that extends the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program through 2010 and requires most states to substantially increase the number of parents receiving TANF who have jobs or are in training; and

WHEREAS, forcing individuals into the workforce without the proper career development skills will not break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, although TANF allows three educational activities - vocational education training, secondary school attendance, and education directly related to employment - to count toward a state's work participation rate, there are limitations:

- Vocational education training can only count toward a recipient's work requirement for up to 12 months;
- Education directly related to employment can only count toward the work requirement of an adult high school dropout or teen parent; and
- No more than 30 percent of recipients counted toward the state's work participation rate may participate in vocational training or be a teen parent in secondary school,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that TANF work requirements be waived to allow individuals to attend a community college or university to develop a career, not just a job; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that TANF regulations allow more flexibility so that participation in mental health and substance abuse programs can count towards meeting the "work participation" requirement.

IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

WHEREAS, mental health and addiction treatment is something that has touched virtually everyone. Everyone has a family member, friend or co-worker who has been affected by mental illness and/or addiction; and

WHEREAS, mayors know from experience that improving mental health and addiction benefits improves people's lives and reduces health care costs by avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations, controlling chronic physical diseases and reducing emergency room visits, improves productivity in the workplace, and reduces law enforcement problems; and

WHEREAS, mayors, as chief executives of local governments that are large employers, recognized that treatment for mental illnesses and addiction is effective and it can improve people's lives and that this treatment is cost-effective from an economic standpoint; and

WHEREAS, according to the General Accountability Office, nearly 90 percent of health plans impose such financial limitations and treatment restrictions on mental health and addiction care despite voluminous scientific research documenting the biological, genetic, and chemical nature of these diseases, and the effectiveness of treatment; and

WHEREAS, equal benefits are in the interest of cities' public health, education, law enforcement and social services needs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that mental health and addiction benefits be equalized with other health care benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act sponsored by Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Congressman Jim Ramstad and urges Congress to pass this legislation.

REFORMING AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY

WHEREAS, Mayors are committed to supporting agricultural reforms in the 2007 Farm Bill that will improve the health and protect the environment of all Americans through significantly strengthening Federal nutrition programs, improving access to healthy food for low income Americans, promoting environmental stewardship and conservation, and protecting our food supply; and

WHEREAS, there are major concerns about food and farming issues that affect the health of citizens in urban America because of increased levels of hunger and food insecurity in low-income populations, lack of access to healthy food in low income areas, chronic diseases related to poor diet such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, there are major environmental concerns that impact residents arising from distribution of agricultural products distributed through an inefficient food supply transportation network which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and agricultural dependence on pesticides and chemically intensive production that contributes to air and water pollution, and dramatic losses of prime agricultural land in certain states due to urban sprawl, which threatens the preservation and protection of urban water sheds; and

WHEREAS, a strong agriculture conservation program in which city water utilities are full partners is critical to reducing the environmental impact of farming and to protecting watersheds and urban drinking water supplies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of healthy diets for all residents, including strengthening incentives and infrastructure to encourage more fruit/vegetable production, organic farming, better access to fresh foods and investment in programs promoting healthy food, expansion of programs that help communities invest in retail markets, food-based businesses and increasing access to farmers markets, farm-to-cafeteria programs that bring the freshest, locally grown food into school lunch programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports increasing the minimum food stamp benefits, revising asset limits, removing the residency cap for legal

non-citizens, simplifying the application and renewal process of the food stamp program, and developing incentives to encourage food stamp recipients to increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports strengthening The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and fully funding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to strengthen and expand agriculture conservation programs as a strategic investment in our country's agricultural infrastructure, including improving air and water quality and the protection of urban water sheds, to sufficiently fund agriculture conservation programs and make water utility watershed management programs eligible for funding under the Partnerships and Cooperation Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports investments in infrastructure, entrepreneurship programs and facilities that process, distribute and develop value-added products using locally-grown commodities purchased from small and mid-sized local farmers to meet the demand for local, healthy food.

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE RECURRENCE OF VIOLENT CRIME

WHEREAS, youth violence is the second leading cause of death nationwide for young people between the ages of 10 and 24; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of recurrence of street violence for a victim is estimated at up to 44%; and

WHEREAS, 5,570 young people age 10-24 were murdered - an average of 16 each day - in 2003; and

WHEREAS, over 780,000 violence-related injuries in young people age 10 to 24 were treated in U.S. emergency rooms in 2004; and

WHEREAS, nearly 5.3 million incidents of intimate partner violence occur each year among U.S. women ages 18 and older, and 3.2 million occur in men; and

WHEREAS, being a victim of violence can result in a multitude of physical and psychological health problems, as well as tremendous economic costs to both the victim and society; and

WHEREAS, many young people seek medical care for violence-related injuries, some of which can lead to lasting disabilities; and

WHEREAS, violence can also affect the health of communities by increasing the cost of health care, decreasing property value, and disrupting social services. The cost of youth violence exceeds \$158 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, promising interventions in some cities have shown the potential to stop repeat violence by providing safety and support to all victims of violence in hospitals and other health care settings,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that in order to ensure reduction of the recurrence of violent injury, The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) urges cities to recognize all violence as a public health issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USCM encourages cities to work with health care institutions to establish programs that protect the safety of all victims of violence, including but not limited to intimate partner and other intentional violence, seeking medical care in emergency rooms, community health centers, and other sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USCM urges cities to partner with health care institutions to train health care providers in community health centers and acute care hospitals to establish protocols and effectively respond to and treat all victims of violence.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine's 2002 Report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare," documents and defines "differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions", as disparities; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are caused by many social factors, including discrimination, poverty, inequitable access to resources essential to health such as education, healthy housing, healthy environments, and culturally competent health care;

WHEREAS, minority populations have higher prevalence rates of chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes, which are also among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems; and

WHEREAS, heart disease and stroke are the first and third leading causes of death for both men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the medical costs and indirect economic costs from lost productivity due to chronic illnesses were estimated at \$352 billion for heart disease, \$189 billion for cancer, and \$132 billion for diabetes; and

WHEREAS, without concerted and coordinated political action, the gains achieved in the 20th century of reducing the burden of infectious diseases will be washed away as the lives of millions are cut short by preventable and treatable chronic illnesses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors requests continued and expanded national support for a) federal programs that explicitly tackle this major social problem; b) funding streams to local public health departments to provide chronic disease prevention and health promotion interventions.

**EXPANDING THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AFTER-SCHOOL AND
OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, insuring access to high-quality after-school and out-of-school programming for school-aged youth and their families continues to be a critical priority at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, after-school programming reinforces a positive attitude towards education and staying in school, enhances the physical, social, emotional and moral development of youth, and provides support for working families; and

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible and high-quality after-school and out-of-school programming is an essential need for most American families; and

WHEREAS, the risk of youth becoming victims of or participating in a violent crime triples in the hours following the school day; and

WHEREAS, unsupervised youth are at greater risk of truancy, pregnancy, abusing alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, receiving poor grades, and experiencing mental depression; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high-quality after-school and out-of-school programs experience greater academic success, develop stronger peer relations, have better emotional adjustment and conflict resolution skills, and have better conduct in school compared to peers not in after school programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government, along with state and local governments, to increase investment in community-based after-school and out-of-school programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to re-establish a summer jobs program for the nation's economically disadvantaged youth, to initially fund this program at a level equivalent to or greater than the FY 2001 funding levels, and to utilize the same needs-based funding formula to allocate these funds nationally; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth is funded only from the excess of the amount appropriated for the WIA youth formula program when it is at a level of at least \$1 billion and not at the expense of the year round program.

HEAD START REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the Head Start program for over four decades has successfully delivered comprehensive early childhood education, health and social services, and has a proud history of bipartisan support in Congress; and

WHEREAS, almost one million of America's most at-risk children and their families currently depend on Head Start programs for a solid foundation for their future, for their first educational experiences, for immunizations, dental and health care, for learning social skills and good nutrition habits; and

WHEREAS, one-third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program graduated from high school than those who did not attend; and

WHEREAS, Head Start serves the nation's poorest children, those living in families at or below the poverty line, as well as children with disabilities or other special needs; and

WHEREAS, Head Start from its creation was conceived as a federal-local partnership, with funds delivered directly to local grantees in thousands of communities across the country, and with more than 150 Head Start programs--including some of the nation's largest--being managed and operated by local city or county governments; and

WHEREAS, as a locally-run and locally-focused program, Head Start educates and cares for its children, improves and enriches the lives of their parents and siblings, and engages and benefits the residents, organizations and institutions of the neighborhoods and cities in which it operates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly opposes any attempt to move Head Start to the states through a block grant or other means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the current federal to local funding structure and supports the continued coordination of Head Start, child care and pre-kindergarten programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the current continuous improvement review and resolution process for grantees, and expresses its concern over any changes that could lead to arbitrary, unwarranted and indiscriminate mandatory re-competition for local Head Start grantees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports proposed legislative language increasing the family income eligibility guidelines from 100% to 130% of the federal poverty level for all Head Start participants, thus allowing local programs to serve more low-income working families who have successfully moved off of public assistance and bringing eligibility criteria in line with the higher costs of living for families in urban areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes proposed legislative language prohibiting local Head Start programs from using federal funds to appeal decisions by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, and from registering parents to vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the Head Start program so that all eligible children can have access to these highly valuable early childhood development and enrichment services.

**APPROPRIATION FOR RYAN WHITE TREATMENT AND MODERNIZATION
ACT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS RYAN WHITE TREATMENT AND
MODERNIZATION ACT)**

WHEREAS, the Ryan White Treatment and Modernization Act has had a significant impact on the lives and health of people with HIV/AIDS in our cities; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the Treatment and Modernization Act are urgently needed by low-income, uninsured and underinsured persons living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1990, the Ryan White Treatment and Modernization Act has dramatically improved the quality of life of people living with HIV-disease and their families, reduced use of costly inpatient care, and increased access to care for low-income, underserved populations, including people of color; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that those receiving services from the Treatment and Modernization Act providers are up to 40 to 90 percent more likely to report appropriate medical care, including access to anti-HIV medications; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Ryan White Treatment and Modernization Act was signed in December 2006; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorized Act should build on the Act's previous success by modernizing it to address new challenges in the HIV/AIDS epidemic while maintaining the successful structure, strong local control and continuity of care of existing services present in the current law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide increased immediate funding to fairly and adequately address the epidemic in areas with longstanding as well as emerging HIV/AIDS crises and to provide appropriate and sufficient funds for localities to implement the Treatment and Modernization Act programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to continue to provide sufficient funds for all previously allowed service categories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that Congress allow cities and their communities to use the proper tools to address new challenges confronting the HIV/AIDS epidemic so that life-saving health services are not interrupted.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CARE SUPPORT

WHEREAS, the support for environmental health services, environmental health assessments, testing remediation, disease investigation and control, as well as research for environmental health needs is an emerging and critical need at the local level; and

WHEREAS, biological and other hazardous materials and its health impact, as well as emergency/disaster preparedness are critical issues of the environmental agenda; and

WHEREAS, to adequately address this will require additional epidemiological surveillance, investigation, health risk assessments and training,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors sees as an absolute critical need dedicated funding for Environmental Health Care Support.

**FUND HOMELAND SECURITY INITIATIVES RELATED TO BIOTERRORISM AND
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS**

WHEREAS, funding for Homeland Security activities related to public health preparedness, emergency preparedness, response and training are based on a standard formula, not local need, as different border communities are disproportionately affected; and

WHEREAS, best practices have already been developed for regional response, strategic national stockpile, and all hazards preparedness; and

WHEREAS, public health emergency/disaster and bioterrorism and preparedness and response are a challenge, requiring an immediate and expert local response; and

WHEREAS, funding and program support continues to be developed with regional approaches, which are not practical in all areas of the country; and

WHEREAS, additional and enhanced services in surveillance report, health alerts, and health risks assessment, as well as risk communication and education, mental health support and the training for response, preparedness and personal protective equipment is critical,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors sees an absolute critical need for Homeland Security Initiatives Related to Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness.

SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

WHEREAS, approximately 43,000,000 U.S. residents are enrolled in Medicare and enrollment is expected to grow markedly over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the formulas used to develop Medicare reimbursement rates fail to adequately reflect the true costs of practicing medicine; and

WHEREAS, medical doctors have testified that Medicare reimburses less than 50% of physicians' costs of patient care; and

WHEREAS, fewer and fewer medical doctors accept new Medicare patients and many current patients are being terminated from care for a lack of sufficient reimbursements so that the numbers of untreated Medicare patients is reaching critical levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congressional Budget Office recently forecast that, under current law, Medicare reimbursement rates for medical doctors will be reduced by an additional 10 percent in 2008; and

WHEREAS, cumulative reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates for medical doctors are expected to reach 40 percent by 2015, and, during the same time frame, medical practice costs are expected to rise 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association calls the Medicare reimbursement formula, "broken beyond repair" and wants it replaced; and

WHEREAS, the United States Medicare Payment Advisory Commission is concerned that Medicare reimbursement rate cuts will worsen patient access to medical doctors; and

WHEREAS, a national survey of medical doctors conducted by the American Medical Association found that nearly half of the medical doctors surveyed will be forced to decrease or stop accepting new Medicare patients if reimbursement rates are lowered; and

WHEREAS, The Military Officers Association of America stated that Medicare reimbursement rate cuts will significantly damage military beneficiaries' access to care since military health insurance is linked to Medicare reimbursement rates,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to comprehensively rewrite the Medicare reimbursement system to address inequities in physician reimbursement that are leading to the collapse of the primary care system and limiting senior citizens' access to the physicians best qualified to coordinate their care.

A NEW BOTTOM LINE IN REDUCING THE HARMS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has long been concerned about substance abuse and its impacts on cities of all sizes; and

WHEREAS, this Conference recognizes that addiction is a chronic medical illness that is treatable, and drug treatment success rates exceed those of many cancer therapies; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 112,085,000 Americans aged 12 or over (46.1% of the US population aged 12 and over) have used an illicit drug at least once; and

WHEREAS, the United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners, incarcerating more than 2.3 million citizens in its prisons and jails, at a rate of one in every 136 U.S. residents—the highest rate of incarceration in the world; and

WHEREAS, 55% of all federal and over 20% of all state prisoners are convicted of drug law violations, many serving mandatory minimum sentences for simple possession offenses; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 74th Annual Meeting opposing mandatory minimum sentencing on both the state and federal levels and urging the creation of fair and effective sentencing policies; and

WHEREAS, drug treatment is cost-effective: a study by the RAND Corporation found that every additional dollar invested in substance abuse treatment saves taxpayers \$7.46 in societal costs, a reduction that would cost 15 times as much in law enforcement expenditure to achieve; and

WHEREAS, the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study shows substantial reductions in criminal behavior, with a 64% decrease in all arrests after treatment, making public safety a primary beneficiary of effective drug treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a "Comprehensive National Substance Abuse Strategy" at its 69th Annual Meeting, and a "Comprehensive Drug Prevention and Treatment Policy" at its 66th Annual Meeting, both of which called for treatment to be made available to any American who struggles with drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local costs of the war on drugs exceed \$40 billion annually, yet drugs are still widely available in every community, drug use and demand have not decreased, and most drug prices have fallen while purity levels have increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), only 35% percent of the federal drug control budget is spent on education, prevention and treatment combined, with the remaining 65% devoted to law enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, over one-third of all HIV/AIDS cases and nearly two-thirds of all new cases of hepatitis C in the U.S. are linked to injection drug use with contaminated syringes, now the single largest factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has, on three separate occasions, adopted resolutions in support of expanded access to sterile syringes by people who inject drugs as a public health strategy to decrease the transmission of blood-borne diseases and provide links to treatment without increasing drug use; and

WHEREAS, virtually all independent analyses have found ONDCP's drug prevention programs to be costly and ineffective: the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently found that both the National Youth Anti-Drug Media campaign and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program have not only failed to reduce drug use, but instead might lead to unintended negative consequences; and

WHEREAS, blacks, Latinos and other minorities use drugs at rates comparable to whites, yet face disproportionate rates of arrest and incarceration for drug law violations: among persons convicted of drug felonies in state courts, 33% of convicted white defendants received a prison sentence, while 51% of black defendants received prison sentences; and

WHEREAS, women are the fastest growing prison population in the U.S., increasing by over 700% since 1977, to 98,600 at the end of 2005. Drug law violations now account for nearly one-third of incarcerated women, compared to one-fifth of men; and

WHEREAS, at year end 2005, over 7 million U.S. residents—about 3.2% of the adult population, or 1 in every 32 adults—were incarcerated or on probation or parole, of whom 28% were under correctional supervision for a drug law violation; and

WHEREAS, at its 73rd and 72nd Annual Meetings, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution to promote the successful reentry of people leaving prison or jail, through job training, transitional housing, family reunification, drug abuse and mental health treatment, and the restoration of voting rights; and

WHEREAS, the cost of local law enforcement and of providing services to formerly incarcerated residents is borne primarily by local governments; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country have experienced a rise in violent crime and must prioritize scarce law enforcement resources, yet the nation's police arrested a record 786,545 individuals on marijuana related charges in 2005—almost 90% for simple possession alone—far exceeding the total number of arrests for all violent crimes combined; and

WHEREAS, there is no easy, "one-size-fits-all" solution to substance abuse and drug-related harms: individual cities, counties, and states face unique challenges and therefore require local flexibility to pursue those policies that best meet their specific needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors believes the war on drugs has failed and calls for a New Bottom Line in U.S. drug policy, a public health approach that concentrates more fully on reducing the negative consequences associated with drug abuse, while ensuring that our policies do not exacerbate these problems or create new social problems of their own; establishes quantifiable, short- and long-term objectives for drug policy; saves taxpayer money; and holds state and federal agencies accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that U.S. policy should not be measured solely on drug use levels or number of people imprisoned, but rather on the amount of drug-related harm reduced. At a minimum, this includes: reducing drug overdose fatalities, the spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, the number of nonviolent drug law offenders behind bars, and the racial disparities created or exacerbated by the criminal justice system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that short- and long-term goals should be set for reducing the problems associated with both drugs and the war on drugs; and federal, state, and local drug agencies should be judged - and funded - according to their ability to meet specific performance indicators, with targets linked to local conditions. A greater percentage of drug war funding should be

spent evaluating the efficacy of various strategies for reducing drug related-harm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a wide range of effective drug abuse treatment options and supporting services must be made available to all who need them, including: greater access to methadone and other maintenance therapies; specially-tailored, integrated services for families, minorities, rural communities and individuals suffering from co-occurring disorders; and effective, community-based drug treatment and other alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent drug law offenders, policies that reduce public spending while improving public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference supports preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other infectious diseases by eliminating the federal ban on funding of sterile syringe exchange programs and encourages the adoption of local overdose prevention strategies to reduce the harms of drug abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the impact of drug use and drug policies is most acutely felt on the local communities, and therefore local needs and priorities of drug policy can be best identified, implemented and assessed at the local level. A successful national strategy to reduce substance abuse and related harms must invest in the health of our cities and give cities, counties, and states the flexibility they need to find the most effective way to deal with drugs, save taxpayer dollars and keep their communities safe.

2008 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT RESTORATION

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides assistance to low-income families; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies administer and coordinate services, and leverage approximately \$9.9 billion in other federal, state, local, and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of resources to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency, and build stable and healthy communities as a means of combating poverty; and

WHEREAS, each Community Services Block Grant dollar leverages \$5.40 in non-federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide network of community action agencies leverage resources to provide services including Head Start, literacy and job training programs, health care, child care, and after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, community action agencies support LIHEAP, weatherization assistance, housing and home ownership services, transitional housing, financial literacy, asset development, community and economic development, food pantries, and meal programs; and

WHEREAS, demands on community action agency services from the working poor, older Americans, families struggling with unemployment, and the number of people departing TANF increase; and

WHEREAS, CSBG has received level funding in the amount of \$650 million since FY 2002; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed 2008 federal budget reflects the elimination of CSBG funding without any other funding identified to provide the bridge in funding for services needed by poor and working poor,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors strongly supports investment in CSBG, and thereby, supports increasing FY 2008 CSBG funding at a minimum level of \$700 million, the level consistent with the final FY 2002 appropriation with proper adjustment for inflation.

ADEQUATELY FUND TITLE V AND POPULATION BASED SERVICES

WHEREAS, because of under and uninsured populations, the demand for maternal child health services has multiplied in recent years; and

WHEREAS, many cities maintain primary care physicians, nurses, dentists, and mental health providers to assist service many in the under and uninsured populations; and

WHEREAS, the constant reduction in Title V has resulted in the gap between needs and resources becoming increasingly critical; and

WHEREAS, the rising need for service and the lack of adequate providers and Title V funding cuts have greatly affected local governments' ability to adequately address health concerns,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors sees as an absolute critical need the full and dedicated funding level for Title V funding.

**INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
(CDBG)**

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the program is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for low-and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow urban, suburban, and rural communities to carry out a broad range of activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 32-year old history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among all levels of government, the business community, and the nonprofit sector to carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low-and moderate-income families; and

WHEREAS, according to HUD, over 95 percent of FY2006 funding was allocated to activities principally benefiting low-and moderate-income persons and their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, also according to FY2006 HUD data, CDBG provided housing assistance to 179,835 housing projects, created or retained 55,957 jobs for low-and moderate-income persons, provided essential public services to an estimated 11 million households; and

WHEREAS, CDBG formula grants were cut by 10 percent in FY2006 from \$4.1 billion to \$3.71 billion, and also cut in FY2005 by five percent, resulting in a 15 percent cut in two years; and

WHEREAS, CDBG formula grants remained at the same funding level in FY2007 as FY2006, \$3.71 billion; and

WHEREAS, a survey on the impact of the CDBG cuts released by 20 organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, on March 15, 2006 found that reduced formula allocations between FY2004-FY2006 has had a substantial negative effect on the 68 percent of all state programs and 28 percent of all entitlement communities that responded to the survey; and

WHEREAS, the survey found that CDBG cuts to cities, counties and states between FY2004 – FY2006 has led to 5,588 fewer businesses, 5,843 fewer homeowners, 5,064,408 fewer low-and moderate-income persons served, 255,569 fewer elderly persons served, 391,823 fewer children and youth served, 253,187 fewer persons with special needs served, 196,150 fewer homeless persons served, 50,046 fewer units of rehabilitated housing, and 1251 city and county improvement projects(water and sewer, street and sidewalks, fire stations, public facilities) canceled or delayed; and

WHEREAS, the administration's FY2008 budget request proposes to cut nearly \$1billion in CDBG formula funding; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2007, fifty-two members of the Senate sent a letter to the Budget Committee urging it to include sufficient funding to permit CDBG formula grants to be funded at \$4.1 billion in FY2008; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors in its 10-Point Plan released in January, 2007 calls for CDBG formula funding to be doubled to \$8 billion;

WHEREAS, mayors contend that the additional funding of \$8 billion would address the delayed projects and activities which have come about because of cuts to CDBG, and further build on the proven record of an effective affordable housing and revitalization program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports that formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program be increased to no less than \$4.1 billion in FY2008;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors also strongly supports that formula funding for the CDBG program be doubled to at least \$8 billion.

SUPPORTING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, decent, safe, affordable housing is at the core of family stability and strong neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the HOME program has expanded the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing, strengthened public-private partnerships; improved the lives of low- and moderate-income people, and strengthened neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides direct formula grants to jurisdictions to fund a wide-range of affordable housing activities, including home buyer assistance, construction and rehabilitation of rental housing, and the rehabilitation of existing homeowner properties; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the HOME program has committed over \$18 billion dollars to affordable housing nationwide. As of April 30, 2007, the program has committed funding to develop and rehabilitate 849,687 affordable homes for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families; and

WHEREAS, the majority of HOME funds have been committed to housing that will be occupied by very low-income people and a substantial amount will assist families with incomes no greater than 30 percent of median income. As of April 30, 2007, more than 87 percent of HOME assisted rental housing (including tenant-based rental assistance) was benefiting families at or below 50 percent of area median income. More than 56 percent of all HOME-assisted rental housing (including tenant-based rental assistance) assists families earning no more than 30 percent of area median income.

WHEREAS, the HOME program helps persons purchase a home by providing down payment and closing cost assistance and by subsidizing the construction and/or rehabilitation costs of the home. As of April 30, 2007, the program has assisted 331,840 households realize the dream of owning a home; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program is cost effective and strengthens public-private partnerships by leveraging additional private resources to HOME projects. For each HOME dollar, an additional \$3.78 in private funds is leveraged; and

WHEREAS, HOME formula grants to cities and States did not increase in FY 2007, remaining at \$1.68 billion; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides technical assistance to jurisdictions to manage their programs. Last year, Congress directed approximately 70% of the \$10 million in HOME technical assistance funds to Community Housing Development Organizations (non-profit organizations), which make up only 15% of the total HOME program, thereby, sharply reducing the technical assistance funds available to local jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and, thereby, supports increased funding for the HOME program formula to at least \$2 billion in FY 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports no less than 70% of the HOME technical assistance funds being provided to local governments for training and technical assistance to local government agencies which directly administer the HOME program.

**ENDORISING INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO SUCCESSFULLY END AND PREVENT
CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS ACROSS THE NATION**

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, chronically homeless individuals, those with the most persistent forms of homelessness, are afflicted not only by poverty but also by severe conditions such as mental illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in order for persons experiencing chronic homelessness to succeed in their housing, supportive services are necessary to mitigate health, substance abuse, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness have shown that permanent supportive housing models to end chronic homelessness are highly effective and that the cost of providing supportive housing is substantially offset by savings in the most expensive systems of community care including hospitalizations, jails, and other correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, these supportive strategies improve the quality of life for both the individuals being housed and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, ending chronic homelessness requires collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, together with community institutions, businesses, and faith-based organizations, to determine how best to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, over 300 cities have created jurisdictionally-based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness, many of which are showing results; and

WHEREAS, though there is progress in many communities, new data demonstrates that homelessness continues to be one of our nation's most challenging social problems; as many as 3.5 million people experience homelessness over the course of a year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the increased investment in proven strategies that end chronic homelessness, with a strong focus on permanent housing with supportive services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years, urges Congress to appropriate \$1.8 billion in HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program, which would enable communities to develop 15,000 units of permanent supportive housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to endorse and urges Congress to create new permanent funding sources for supportive services for the homeless within the Health and Human Services budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to re-authorize the McKinney-Vento Act with provisions for regulatory relief that would allow existing federal funds appropriated through McKinney-Vento to be fully expended and more efficiently utilized each budget year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, through the re-authorization of McKinney-Vento Act, fund an innovative grants program that would provide demonstration grants to communities across the nation implementing ten-year plans to end chronic homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to provide permanent supportive housing to assist the nation's significant and growing homeless veterans population, including providing additional Section 8 Vouchers for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which provides permanent housing subsidies and case management services to homeless veterans with mental and addictive disorders; and through the VA Medical Care Account, provide a dollar for dollar supportive services match for the HUD-VASH Section 8 vouchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and HUD to end homelessness for the roughly 600,000 families who are homeless each year by providing rapid rehousing programs that focus on helping homeless families move back into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses and urges Congress to enact legislation that would provide

Federal assistance to youth over the age of 18 aging out of foster care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and commends its initiatives to support mayors as they implement ten year plans.

**ENDORSING THE INNOVATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT TO
END HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ending homelessness for families and individuals in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership created by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 300 mayors to remedy chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the partnership of USICH with the U.S. Conference of Mayors has resulted in the creation of over 300 jurisdictionally based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness, and more than two dozen cities of all sizes now report quantifiable results in reducing street and chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Project Homeless Connect was created by San Francisco, CA in October 2004; and

WHEREAS, the recent innovation of National Project Homeless Connect is helping cities welcome people experiencing homelessness back into community life by mobilizing volunteers from all walks of life to provide services and housing in one-day, one-stop engagement events that support the goals of their ten year plans; and over the last two years more than 115 cities of all sizes have adopted this innovation, and building on models of response to Katrina and in veterans' Stand Downs; and

WHEREAS mayors have organized Project Homeless Connect events specifically to engage homeless youth, homeless families, and chronically homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, mayors have engaged business, academia, professional sports, and an expansive range of new public and private partners in executing Project Homeless Connect events; and

WHEREAS, research compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness suggests that Project Homeless Connect provides consumer-centric strategies to deliver immediate results in needed services, housing, and employment, and

supports a new way of doing business to achieve results for homeless consumers; and

WHEREAS, cities of all sizes have developed best practices in Project Homeless Connect events and have been encouraged to share their strategies with other cities; and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Council has convened coordinated annual National Project Homeless Connect events in December 2005 and December 2006, to partner with cities, and has designated December 3 -7, 2007 as 2007 National Project Homeless Connect Week; and

WHEREAS, Project Homeless Connect strategies and results improve the quality of life for individuals, the community, neighborhoods, and the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness requires collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, together with community institutions, business, and faith-based organizations, to determine how best to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the increased involvement of mayors in joining the 2007 National Project Homeless Connect Week and throughout the year in proven strategies that end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends this innovative initiative and encourages mayors to adopt the National Project Homeless Connect model and participate in the 2007 National Project Homeless Connect Week.

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS BY INCREASING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the men and women of the armed services have made sacrifices for the American people and we have an obligation to care for them if they need services or housing; and

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to supporting homeless veterans and assuring they have the housing and services they need to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration CHALENG report estimates that there are 195,827 homeless veterans in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2006 CHALENG report indicates that the one of the greatest unmet needs for veterans is long-term, permanent housing and that over 24,000 units of long-term, permanent housing are needed; and

WHEREAS, homeless veterans with disabilities often need housing that is deeply affordable with onsite services to help them remain housed and thrive in our communities; and

WHEREAS, creating permanent supportive housing for disabled veterans will increase the availability of existing transitional housing units for the men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who become homeless and are in need of stabilization services to re-integrate back into the community; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness, especially for veterans will require distinct funding sources including capital, operating and services dollars, in addition to strong partnerships with the Veterans Administration to support the development and services within these settings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors support the increased investment to end homelessness for veterans using proven strategies such as creating permanent supportive housing units designated for veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors continue to endorse legislation that creates new funding sources to create permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans that includes funds for new construction with dollars for operating and onsite treatment services through increased resources for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program, and targeted resources within the Department of Health and Human Services for mental health and substance abuse treatment services and within the Department of Labor for workforce assistance.

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, housing is at the core of strong communities, promoting neighborhood stability, improving educational opportunity, employment stability, and helping owners to build wealth; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2006 Hunger and Homelessness Survey found that one of the primary causes of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 National Low Income Housing Coalition study found that there are roughly nine million renter households nationwide who pay half or more of their income for housing; and

WHEREAS, safe, decent, and affordable housing is at the foundation of strong families and communities; and

WHEREAS, unmet housing needs have reached an all-time high; and

WHEREAS, working people in our cities are having a difficult time finding affordable housing and 9.6 million of the lowest income families in the U.S. pay more than half of their income for housing; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, new federal spending on housing has decreased substantially; and

WHEREAS, housing represents 23 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, is an economic stimulus and creates jobs; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing must be a national priority; and

WHEREAS, nearly 600 state and local housing trust funds have been created, which serve as models for what can and should be done at the national level; and

WHEREAS, a national housing trust fund should be established to construct, rehabilitate and preserve housing; and

WHEREAS, local governments have played a significant role in the development of affordable housing and that role is

recognized and supported by the proposed national housing trust fund,

WHEREAS, the three decade long housing trust fund movement continues to grow to where there is now more than 600 state and local housing trusts that collectively generate 1.6 billion dollars a year; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives' Financial Services Committee authorizes the creation of an Affordable Housing Fund based on the revenues of the government sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Affordable Housing Fund will become a part of the National Housing Trust Fund, providing for even more funding capacity for the production and preservation of housing; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors has already adopted strong policy for a National Housing Trust Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors reaffirms its policy by calling for the passage of a National Housing Trust Fund primarily, but not exclusively, designed to meet the needs of the very low income, i.e. 30 percent of the AMI or below, through the preservation and production of housing;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports that 60 percent or more of the funding of the National Housing Trust Fund should be allocated to localities.

IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

WHEREAS, Public Housing Authorities are an instrumental part of revitalizing and empowering our communities; and

WHEREAS, the nation's public housing authorities are struggling to provide services to those in dire need of public housing because of a lack of federal funding; and

WHEREAS, locally based housing assistance helps stabilize low income households and reduces relevant costs to state and local government for services to low income families, children and seniors; and

WHEREAS, the public housing program provides homes for 1.1 million low-income families, over half of whom are elderly or disabled; and

WHEREAS, public housing is a national asset worth over \$100 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Public Housing Operating Fund supports the operation of public housing including maintenance, security, and social services for residents; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, public housing residents have been feeling the effects of \$1.16 billion in cuts to funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Public Housing Capital Fund supports the capital needs of public housing; and

WHEREAS, there is an estimated backlog of capital improvements needs for public housing estimated between \$18 and 20 billion; and

WHEREAS, funding allocated by Congress for the Capital Fund has decreased 24% since 2001 despite the burgeoning backlog of capital needs; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2006, HUD notified housing authorities that the operating fund would be funded at 76% of the need to run safe, decent housing for calendar year 2007. This funding amounts to a \$1.0 billion shortfall; and

WHEREAS, HUD is attempting to implement a new and inflexible Public Housing Operating Fund Rule that will require housing authorities to spend significantly more to operate than under the existing system; and

WHEREAS, Public Housing Authorities have had to respond to these cuts with the elimination services and staff; for example, the City of Philadelphia has had to reduce its PHA staff by over 300 and the City of Trenton by about 50%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to fully fund the Public Housing Operating Fund at \$5 billion for fiscal year 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors supports the full funding of Public Housing Capital Fund at \$3.5 billion for the 2008 fiscal year; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports a delay in the implementation of the Public Housing Operating Fund Rule until the new rule can be tested and proven to be effective.

SUPPORT FOR HOPE VI PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Hope VI Program has been an important catalyst for transforming distressed and disinvested neighborhoods into viable mixed income residential communities; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI program has become a model for cities nationwide working to replace obsolete public housing with a range of affordable housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI program has been credited with increasing employment opportunities and incomes for residents of public housing and improving the social fabric of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Hope VI Program has attracted a wide range of private investment resources to reinforce public housing resources to fund the cost of public housing assisted units; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Institute estimates that there are up to 80,000 units in need of HOPE VI funding, the public housing inventory has an accumulated capital needs backlog of approximately \$18 billion, with an estimated \$2 billion accruing each year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to reauthorize and provide increased funding for the Hope VI Program.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVING TO WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Moving to Work Program is critical to helping low income families in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Moving to Work (MTW) allows for greater flexibility for PHA and HUD to design and test various ways of addressing the housing needs for low income families; and

WHEREAS, MTW provides incentives for families seeking work or preparing for work by participating in job training, educational programs, and programs that assist people to gain employment and become economically self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, experience gained from the existing MTW Program shows that residents benefit from the increased flexibility given to Public Housing Authorities; and

WHEREAS, participating PHAs have concluded that MTW encourages residents to seek employment, work more steadily, and pursue opportunities to increase their income; and

WHEREAS, Moving to Work agencies administer over 130,000 public housing and 230,000 Section 8 units, or more than 10% of current housing stock; and

WHEREAS, MTW has shown how to operate and manage in ways that are accountable to their residents and local communities without penalizing rules that add to the cost but not to the value of the program; and

WHEREAS, innovation is key to solving the housing needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS, MTW generates more housing for low income workers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to reauthorize and expand the program in such a way that allows maximum local flexibility in the operation of housing programs and to allow the continuation of current successful demonstrations.

FORCLOSURE PREVENTION AND FHA REFORM RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mayors are committed to ensuring affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income families and individuals, including the elderly and disabled, in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, homeownership is the most effective wealth-building tool available to average American families with the residential real estate assets in the United States now totaling \$22.6 trillion; and

WHEREAS, homeownership is near its highest level in history with nearly 70% of the population purchasing their own homes in which many are first time home buyers; and

WHEREAS, adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) -- accounting for one sixth of all lending -- and subprime loans have substantially increased over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, many homeowners are threatened with default and foreclosure as their subprime hybrid ARMs reset, resulting in significant payment shocks; and

WHEREAS, the rates of homeowners defaulting on home loans is increasing throughout the nation with 310,000 foreclosures in the 4th quarter of 2006, according to the Federal Reserve Board; and

WHEREAS, investors, homeowners, servicers, lenders, and communities all benefit when homeowners are able to avoid foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, many consumers have been subjected to predatory lending practices which resulted from mortgage fraud, deceptive marketing, improper federal oversight and/or a disincentive for mortgage brokers to represent the interests of the borrower; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) should play a key role in the expanding affordable homeownership opportunities for the low and moderate income families, the disabled and elderly, in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, the FHA has declined in influence in the mortgage market due to restrictions in its authority to develop innovative loan products, thereby providing an

opening for scrupulous predatory lenders to make unfair loans because no sound FHA alternatives existed; and

WHEREAS, the FHA cannot compete with new subprime mortgage programs that lend to higher risk borrowers by providing flexible or zero rate down payments; and

WHEREAS, Senator Christopher Dodd, Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, recently convened the Homeownership Preservation Summit where many of the leading mortgage lenders, counseling organizations and civil rights groups agreed on a wide range of principles to resolve loan default issues.

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors, calls on Congress to adopt legislation that would regulate the mortgage lending industry, and on regulators to protect mortgage consumers from unfair practices, especially with respect to subprime loans that can lead to mortgage foreclosure;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors endorses the "Dodd principles" and calls on the mortgage industry and loan servicers to adhere and aggressively implement such principles agreed to at the Homeownership Preservation Summit including, but not limited to; contacting borrowers early and evaluating their mortgage; where appropriate, modifying the loan to help borrowers over the long-term by changing the term, reducing the principal, and/or reamortizing the loan; encouraging low-cost refinancing of mortgages; helping make credit more available through GSEs and the FHA; maximizing the number of successful mortgages saved from foreclosure while minimizing the impact on those borrowers who cannot prevent their loan from defaulting; dedicating resources and staff to provide help with new programs; and creating a system for tracking and measuring progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cities, community organizations and key financial players should encourage borrowers in financial difficulty to seek assistance and advice to avoid foreclosure by contacting their lender or servicer or trusted intermediaries like non-profit home retention counselors supported by NeighborWorks, the homeownership preservation foundation and/or other United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation requiring the federal government to establish minimum licensing standards for mortgage brokers and that mortgage brokers should be required to be an agent of the borrower and to represent his or her best interests;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cities and the mortgage industry are encouraged to continue financial education initiatives that help citizens select the best mortgage product for their financial situation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to pass legislation to reform the Federal Housing Administration by allowing them to offer viable refinance options for today's borrowers facing difficulty making mortgage payments and to be more competitive and innovative by providing low and moderate income consumers with sound mortgage options both in the prime and subprime markets; including but not limited to more flexible down payment options, higher loan limits and lengthened mortgage terms.

PROTECTING AGAINST PREDATORY LENDING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, predatory lenders charge more in interest and fees than necessary for services ranging from insurance to remittances to rent-to-own agreements, and make loans with abusive terms and conditions that trap borrowers and lead to increased indebtedness, and fail to take into account the ability of borrowers to repay loans; and

WHEREAS, predatory financial service and lending practices target society's most vulnerable populations, including senior citizens, low income individuals, and minorities, and strip hard-earned equity from homeowners, thus putting them at risk of foreclosure and damaging their credit ratings; and

WHEREAS, predatory lending is a key factor in many foreclosures and the creation of vacant properties, leading to decreasing property values for neighboring homeowners and neighborhood blight; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have passed anti-predatory lending laws to protect consumers from abusive and predatory lending practices, and many state and local governments are acting to reduce the presence of financial services; and

WHEREAS, families struggling to get ahead can achieve very real improvements in their economic well-being, increasing spendable income and savings when they are not victims of excessive fees, interest, and exploitive financial service agreements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass strong mortgage lending and financial service protections, based on existing successful state laws and regulations, which guard against price-gouging practices by unscrupulous brokers and lenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to promulgate regulations which restrict the practices of predatory financial service providers.

**INCREASING WORKING FAMILIES' FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ACCESS
TO BANKING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, many working families have never learned to effectively manage their finances, with the result that they often experience problems related to major purchases, particularly those involving a home or a car; and

WHEREAS, because of their lack of understanding of the financial services industry and the need for personal financial management skills, many Americans have poor credit and are subject to unfair and abusive practices; and

WHEREAS, credit cards have become a financial safety net for the many Americans who live from paycheck to paycheck; and

WHEREAS, a greater commitment among all levels of government and the private sector is needed to promote financial education and literacy; and

WHEREAS, many lower-income working families do not have access to mainstream financial services and must often pay high costs for check-cashing and other financial services; and

WHEREAS, access to mainstream financial services and improved personal income, money management, and planning skills can put working families in a better position to accumulate and retain wealth, own homes, raise healthy families, educate their children, and invest in small businesses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that governments and the private sector make financial literacy education available to working families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this education cover areas such as basic banking, electronic banking, basic investments, debt management, predatory lending, and home mortgages, and be provided through adult education classes, community-based organizations, and other local programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that government and the private sector work together to make more bank branches and

responsible banking products available to families and individuals who live in underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that banking institutions be encouraged to establish accounts for everyone, starting at birth, by exempting low-income workers and other eligible individuals from some or all fees for checking or other accounts and by levying only reasonable charges for checks written on accounts that have insufficient funds.

RESOLUTION ON DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, home ownership is still the most effective wealth creation tool for working middle class families, and

WHEREAS, according to a 2004 study by the Milken Institute and the US Conference of Mayors concluded that working families qualifying to purchase a homes only because of receiving a private downpayment assistance grant, experience an \$18,000 wealth equity gain through their successful ownership of a single family home, and

WHEREAS, homeownership stabilizes neighborhoods and makes for strong families and stronger cities, and

WHEREAS, the down payment is the primary barrier to homeownership for many qualified middle class and lower income families, and

WHEREAS, nonprofits and cities are currently allowed to assist families with downpayment to unlock the door to homeownership, and

WHEREAS, since 1997 over 500,000 families have accessed homeownership from a gift of downpayment assistance from non-profits, and

WHEREAS, 40% of the FHA's current single family mortgage production is from FHA loans combined with private downpayment assistance, and

WHEREAS, nonprofit and city downpayment assistance programs combined with FHA mortgage insurance is often a cheaper and financially better homeownership solution than other products available in the private mortgage marketplace, and

WHEREAS, downpayment assistance nonprofit providers are unregulated and like other communities there are good and bad actors and despite the lack of regulation downpayment has a much better performance record than abusive sub-prime lending products, and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2007 - the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a Federal Register Notice FR-5087-P-01, RIN 2503-AI52 banning the use of private downpayment assistance for use in obtaining an FHA insured loan, even by local governments including cities, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The US Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to continue to support private downpayment assistance provided by non-profits and cities regardless of contribution source, and

- Calls on Congress to hold hearings on private downpayment assistance to gain greater insight into its successes and its need for further regulation to support sustainable homeownership, and
- Calls on Congress to regulate the downpayment assistance industry to ensure that providers offering services that support successful homeownership are not harmed by unscrupulous providers operating in an unregulated marketplace, and
- Calls on HUD to withdraw Federal Register Notice FR-5087-P-01, RIN 2503-AI52 restoring the ability of local governments and non-profits to provide private downpayment assistance and urges HUD to work with Congress as well as other stakeholders in promoting homeownership in preserving this vital tool in helping cities to stabilize neighborhoods and support working families in creating long term prosperity for their families.

**SALUTING CITIES UNITED FOR SCIENCE PROGRESS, DOROTHY HEIGHT
AND CALLING FOR INCREASED HUD FUNDING FOR LEAD-SAFETY
EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and DuPont have partnered on Cities United for Science Progress (CUSP) for six years, and

WHEREAS, CUSP programs have received outstanding support from USCM members with close to 100 cities partnering with DuPont for a Science in the School Day event or over 30 Mayors who have received some of the over \$4 million in grants under the Lead-Safe for Kids' Sake, and

WHEREAS, public private partnerships such as USCM/DuPont partnership are working to make our nation's cities safer, smarter and healthier by organizing events in the cities, sharing best practices on lead-safety and funding outstanding ideas on making communities lead-safe, and

WHEREAS, from evidence gathered from Lead-Safe for Kids' Sake applications and Best Practices, the USCM has learned that poorly maintained older housing can expose children and families to a number of health risks including pests, mold, lead and a variety of safety hazards, and

WHEREAS, in many low-income and troubled neighborhoods, bad landlords unnecessarily exposed children to substandard housing conditions that could present a serious danger to their health, and

WHEREAS, property owners who choose to be in the business of providing housing to low-income residents, or for that matter any resident, are responsible for the condition of the housing, and

WHEREAS, local enforcement of housing codes and increased awareness of potentially dangerous housing conditions in these troubled communities are critical to protecting children against potential risks that arise from housing neglect.

WHEREAS, others including Dr. Dorothy Height and The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) have great public-private partnerships including, "NOT IN OUR HOUSE," an initiative to educate families about health risks in the

home arising from poor maintenance and neglect and to encourage property owners and landlords to provide safer living environments.

WHEREAS, The National Organization of African Americans in Housing (NOAAH) has investigated the nature of environmental hazards in residential and supports programs to encourage better maintenance in troubled housing, and.

WHEREAS, property owners failing to provide safe housing should be subject to the strict enforcement of local and state law and public nuisance litigation should be used as a tool to target these property owners and should not become a source of funds to reward bad landlords.

WHEREAS, President Clinton's Task Force on Environmental Health Risk and Safety Risks to Children called for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lead program to be funded at a rate of \$230 million per year and this year's budget is proposed at \$116 million cutting out Senator Bond and Mikulski's important, landmark lead hazard demonstration program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports:

Mayors and DuPont to continue working together to make cities lead-safe via the USCM Lead-Safe for Kids' Sake grant program and to work together to identify best practices for the improvement of housing code enforcement and making rental properties safer for families.
Efforts that encourage landlords to properly maintain the condition of their properties through better enforcement and community awareness, and opposes efforts that would reward or benefit neglectful property owners failing to provide safe housing and also oppose litigation or legislation that would benefit landlords who fail to properly maintain their properties, and
NCNW and NOAAH and/or other organizations efforts that disseminate information to landlords and families on how to identify potential health hazards and to perform proper maintenance, such as lead-safe and healthy home practices and applauds legendary

civil rights leader Dr. Dorothy Height for her leadership on this critical urban issue, Funding HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and LeadHazard Control's lead-safety programs at \$230 million including a restoration of funds for the successful Bond-Mikulski Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program (\$50 million) so mayors can reach the federally stated goal of making all cities lead-safe by 2010.

**A RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP NEW MODELS STRENGTHENING LOW-INCOME
HOME OWNERSHIP INTEGRATING WEATHERIZATION, HOME
REHABILITATION AND RELATED PROGRAM RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, home ownership is one of the primary vehicles for low- and moderate-income families to build assets and strengthen neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, rising energy prices and sub-prime lending is threatening the ability of millions of low-income families to own and retain their homes; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has established many programs to sustain low income housing and dedicates a considerable sum of resources to this area; and

WHEREAS, because these programs were not designed with coordination amongst them in mind, their varied requirements unnecessarily increase the administrative burden on local governments and the agencies that deliver these services and prevent attaining the full potential they could realize if used to promote low-income home ownership in a coordinated, synergistic way; and

WHEREAS, a new initiative, the Weatherization, Rehab and Asset Preservation (WRAP) Partnership program has partnered with mayors in a number of cities to develop an integrated program that brings together grant resources with energy efficient mortgage refinancing and has shown considerable promise to provide new models of sustaining low- and moderate-income home ownership; and

WHEREAS, some of the barriers to achieving a synergistic effect of federal programs amongst each other and with others have been the varied requirements each federal program has in defining and documenting household income, proof of homeownership, qualification of a housing unit for repeat assistance (even after the useful life of prior assistance has ended or ownership has changed), and the impact of minor repairs on historic properties; and

WHEREAS, mayors do not currently have "waiver authority" from the U.S. Departments of Energy (DOE), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to eliminate these program differences, streamline application processes and creatively integrate program resources,

similar to the "waiver authority" provided to Governors under Medicaid,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the federal government granting Mayors the ability to request waivers from the HUD, HHS and DOE that simplify and encourage integration of program resources including the stream-lining of program requirements to support models of low income homeownership that build on lessons learned by Mayors participating in the WRAP Partnership to provide low- and moderate-income homeowners alternatives to predatory lending when they seek energy efficiency, accessibility, and health and safety home-improvements.

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, cities continue to have as a goal and virtually all of them work toward bringing more financial services and products into their low-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, mayors and state officials have made use of the New Markets Tax Credit and are working to achieve more with it by encouraging the private-sector to target more of their resources and products in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, banking development districts have not been developed to any degree of success as a tool to bring more branches and responsible banking into underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, banks have not done well in identifying low-income neighborhoods that are underserved and then follow up by opening branches in these markets with appropriate products for underserved markets; and

WHEREAS, there have been too few attempts at leveraging underused assets in inner-city neighborhoods, particularly those neighborhoods with unmet market need; and

WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of work in identifying regulatory barriers to housing, there has not been a similar effort with respect to state and regulatory barriers to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the private sector has not done a number of things to assist the economic development of low-income areas: using nontraditional methods to promote economic development; using successful business models already identified in low-income areas; committing venture capital and other capital investments to low-income markets; and

WHEREAS, cities also have need to provide assistance to minority workers; and

WHEREAS, many of the economic development needs of cities listed in this resolution could be solved with a strengthened and reformed Community Reinvestment Act that would include the rapidly developing financial institutions under its purview, strengthen its branch banking power, and increase the range of financial services required for low-income people and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to strengthen and reform the Community Reinvestment Act, by widening its purview of financial institutions, adding to its branch banking power so as to include more low-income areas, and increasing banks' financial services to low-income people and communities;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that The Conference of Mayors also calls on the private sector not covered by the CRA to work closely with mayors to deliver services and products to underserved low-income areas in the many ways cited in this resolution.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVE AMERICA ACT OF 2007

WHEREAS, Representatives Russ Carnahan (D-MO) and Charles Rangel (D-NY) have introduced the bipartisan Preserve America Act of 2007 (HR 610), and

WHEREAS, HR 610 would increase the Historic Preservation Tax Credit from 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures to 25 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures and up to 130 percent of such expenditures in low-income, high-cost areas, and

WHEREAS, HR 610 would also expand eligibility for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit to include all certified historic structures that are over 50 years old, and

WHEREAS, HR 610 would create a new Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit that would provide homeowners with a tax credit of up to \$40,000 for the costs of rehabilitating a qualified historic primary residence, and

WHEREAS, both the owners of single and multi-family residences could claim the Credit, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers without sufficient tax liability to claim the Credit could instead opt for a mortgage credit certificate that would lower their mortgage interest rate, and

WHEREAS, the Credit would not be refundable but could be carried forward to future tax years, and

WHEREAS, the Credit could be transferred to new owners if the home is sold within five years of the Credit first being claimed, and

WHEREAS, homes located in federally, state and locally designated historic districts would qualify for the Credit, and

WHEREAS, rehabilitation standards for the Credit would be the same as those under the Historic Preservation Tax Credit but could be relaxed in the case of non-National Register of Historic Places homes located in Empowerment Zones, Renewal Communities, low-income census tracts and areas designated by a state as chronically distressed if relaxed standards are necessary to prevent further deterioration or demolition of

the home or adverse impacts on neighboring properties and the community, and

WHEREAS, acquisition and enlargement costs would not be eligible for the Credit, and

WHEREAS, proposal to create a Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit received broad bipartisan support in the past, and

WHEREAS, the Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit would spur efforts to revitalize historic urban neighborhoods and preserve historic homes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the United States Conference of Mayors supports the general goals of HR 610, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors specifically supports the creation of a Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the expansion of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit as outlined in HR 610.

CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED NATIONAL CATASTROPHE FUND

WHEREAS, every U.S. city plays a vital front line role in preparing and protecting their residents from the ravages of natural catastrophic events;

WHEREAS, every state is vulnerable to natural catastrophes including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blizzards, and wildfires;

WHEREAS, there is an increase in the incidence of major natural catastrophes and their increasingly costly nature;

WHEREAS, there have been significant contraction in insurance availability and significant increase in costs for consumers;

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, which struck the United States in 2005, caused well over \$200 billion in total economic losses, including both insured and uninsured losses;

WHEREAS, the United States federal government has provided and will continue to provide billions of after-event appropriated dollars and resources to help our nation recover from catastrophes, including hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, blizzards and other disasters, at huge cost to all American taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the United States federal government has a critical interest in ensuring appropriate and fiscally responsible risk management and pre-planning for catastrophes through measures such as loss prevention and mitigation, improved public education and effective emergency management services;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has had under consideration, but taken no action on multiple proposals over the past decade to address natural catastrophic risk insurance, including the creation of a national catastrophe financial backstop program and revision of the Federal tax code to allow insurers to build tax-deferred catastrophe funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to adopt legislation creating a comprehensive, integrated national catastrophe plan (which includes the participation of states) to better prepare and protect American homeowners from inevitable, large-scale natural catastrophes that includes a financial backstop supported by actuarially sound premiums to improve the

availability of reasonably priced property and casualty insurance from private markets to homeowners throughout the nation.

**PROVIDING PRISONERS REENTERING SOCIETY AND EX-OFFENDERS GREATER
OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

WHEREAS, approximately 650,000 state and federal prisoners reenter society each year; and

WHEREAS, persons leaving jail or prison often lack not only the most basic necessities, such as food, shelter and clothing, but also job skills, training and placement; transitional housing; and support services, including substance abuse and mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, about half of all former prisoners are returned to prison for a new crime or parole violation within three years; and

WHEREAS, the social costs of reentry have profound consequences for our communities, including public health risks, homelessness, unemployment and public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, incarceration and the challenges of reentry have a profound impact on the family members of those who are incarcerated, with children of those in prison at a higher risk of living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the incarcerated population has a high rate of infectious disease, substance abuse and/or mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, close to 27 percent of prisoners expect to go to homeless shelters upon release from prison, and 16 percent of the local jail population is mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, many former prisoners are denied employment, educational assistance, TANF benefits, subsidized housing, parental rights, health care, driver's licenses, and the right to vote, and barriers to these rights and services often prevent effective reintegration into society,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to more effectively integrate persons leaving jail or prison back into society, including:

- Providing education to prison inmates;
- Providing inmates with the necessary skills to become productive citizens upon return to society;
- Providing inmates with opportunities to gain the skills to be effective and to have positive influences in the

life of their family upon reentry, including their roles as parents;

- Providing support suited to the particular needs of children of incarcerated individuals to improve their life chances;
- Allowing individuals returning from prison the option of living in public housing when it is in the best interests of their families and communities;
- Providing government jobs for re-entering individuals;
- Providing tax subsidies for businesses that hire returning individuals;
- Changing employment requirements which prohibit hiring people with criminal records, and providing incentives to hire returning prisoners;
- Encouraging businesses which contract with the government to hire people with a criminal record, and providing businesses tax credits for bonding them; and
- Encouraging governments and other employers to consider establishing a special temporary worker category for returning prisoners to make it easier for them to get a first job.

**HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS BECOME
SELF-SUFFICIENT**

WHEREAS, juvenile criminal records exist for young people arrested or detained for crimes regardless of whether they were convicted of those crimes; and

WHEREAS, laws and regulations governing the sealing, expunging or releasing of juvenile criminal records vary from state to state; and

WHEREAS, the ability of employers to consider the existence of juvenile criminal records also varies from state to state; and

WHEREAS, the existence of criminal records can affect young people's future ability to be self-sufficient, adding to their difficulty in getting a job, obtaining the experience necessary to qualify for a job, or obtaining access to public benefits, such as welfare cash assistance, food stamps, and public housing assistance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to explore ways in which it can work with the states to develop a more consistent and enforceable system to govern the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient, successful adults; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges that serious consideration be given to expunging children's criminal records relating to nonviolent crimes.

**SUPPORTING VOTING RIGHTS FOR RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA**

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia, which has 572,000 residents, does not have a voting representative in the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction in the United States whose residents are required to pay federal income taxes but have no voice in how those taxes are spent; and

WHEREAS, the federal tax burden borne by District of Columbia residents, which is approximately \$6 billion a year, is the second highest per capita among the states; and

WHEREAS, District residents have served in every major U.S. combat action - including the war in Iraq - but do not have a vote in the legislative body that approves and funds military action; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah missed gaining a fourth congressional district in the last census by 857 people, amid objections over the failure to include 11,000 overseas missionaries in that count; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that adds a seat for both the District and Utah; and

WHEREAS, companion bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the United States Senate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Senate to approve legislation granting District residents the same voting rights enjoyed by other U.S. citizens who pay federal taxes, and to create an additional congressional seat for the State of Utah; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the President to sign such legislation into law, should it be presented to him, and grant District residents full voting representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL GUNS

WHEREAS, sixty percent of the guns used in crimes are traced back to just one percent of gun dealers; and

WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of gun dealers have never had a gun used in a crime traced back to them; and

WHEREAS, local governments and law enforcement have the responsibility to curb gun trafficking that jeopardizes the safety of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local governments and law enforcement to use trace data held by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is crucial to shutting off the supply of guns to criminals; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted restrictions that prevent local governments and law enforcement from using the trace data to its greatest effect, that prevent courts from compelling its disclosure and that prevent courts from hearing the data as evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Tiahrt Amendments, which have been inserted into the Department of Justice appropriations bill each year since FY 2003, place unnecessarily broad restrictions on access to and use of gun trace data that is compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

WHEREAS, prior to the Tiahrt Amendments the ATF worked with local jurisdictions to analyze gun trafficking patterns and ATF prepared reports using crime gun tracing information which were extremely valuable to local law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2006 a bipartisan group of fifteen Mayors met in New York City at the Mayor's Summit on Illegal Guns, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to begin a nationwide effort to fight illegal guns, and

WHEREAS, today, over 226 Mayors, representing over 50 million people across the United States are now members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and

WHEREAS, 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns, and

WHEREAS, as Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reject legislative proposals such as the Tiahrt amendment and others, that limit our cities' ability to solve and prevent crime in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments and law enforcement be given access to ATF gun trace data as such information is critical to successful investigation and reduction of violent crime in our cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ATF should resume its publication of the Annual Crime Trace Reports that were last published in 2000 and which are extremely valuable to local governments and law enforcement in their efforts to combat illegal guns.

**URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFFICIAL SYSTEM FOR THE MANAGEMENT
AND RELEASE OF CRIME DATA**

WHEREAS, crime data is gathered annually by American cities and reported to the FBI; and

WHEREAS, the FBI annually repackages the data from American cities and re-releases them; and

WHEREAS, private interests take that data and misuse it to mislead the American people about the safety of American cities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference believes strongly that cities should count crime accurately and uniformly in order to give mayors the needed information to reduce crime in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference believes the uniform collection and reporting of crime data to the FBI benefits the country; and

WHEREAS, mayors are convinced that the inaccurate reporting of cities' crime data by unofficial and unreliable sources damages cities, unnecessarily alarms residents and visitors, and hurts efforts to attract new investment; and

WHEREAS, the Conference realizes that it would be in the best interest of all cities to have this data presented in a fair and accurate manner by an official authoritative source,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division to work with the Conference to develop a joint working group to establish a new system for the management and release of crime data, and to educate reporters, elected officials, and citizens on what the data means and doesn't mean.

**BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH DEPLOYMENT OF LESS-LETHAL
POLICE TECHNOLOGIES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has worked for nearly a decade to provide information and assistance to mayors and police chiefs on a variety of community policing and other criminal justice issues by convening meetings of mayors and police chiefs, developing publications on city programs, and disseminating information on innovative crime prevention and enforcement programs in cities and on critical research; and

WHEREAS, safer communities start with demystifying policing, with helping communities to understand how law enforcement works and how to work with it, and with building and maintaining community trust and confidence in police officers; and

WHEREAS, in an on-going effort to make our communities safer for all citizens, law enforcement is deploying more less-lethal options as a way of de-escalating potentially violent situations; and

WHEREAS, electronic control devices have been demonstrated to be one of the safest and most effective less-lethal options available to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,500 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies currently deploy electronic control devices, and

WHEREAS, statistical data has shown dramatic decreases in officer and subject injuries in cities where electronic control devices are deployed; and

WHEREAS, reducing officer and citizen injuries furthers the goals of community oriented policing by building community ties with law enforcement to make our cities safer; and

WHEREAS, statistical data has shown that a reduction in injuries to both suspects and law enforcement officers translates directly into communities savings through fewer lost wages, workmen's compensation, and lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, public education, sound community-based policies, proper training, and appropriate use of electronic control devices are crucial to maintaining their efficacy and safety; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has developed a nine-step guideline to help law enforcement agencies first deploy electronic control devices and develop policies, procedures and training curricula that are responsive and relevant to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) has developed independent guidelines addressing a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to electronic control devices and generally focusing on use issues, including safety, training, and operational protocols; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors previously has taken strong positions in support of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, against gang violence, and for safer communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the COPS program is to increase the ranks of local law enforcement agencies and to provide training and grant funds to enable local agencies to acquire new technologies and equipment while promoting innovative approaches to fighting crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S Conference of Mayors urges cities seeking to deploy, or currently deploying, electronic control devices to review and consider the guidelines developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to continue to support the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) within the U.S. Department of Justice, and specifically its ability to provide direct funding to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring new technologies and equipment, including state-of-the-art less-lethal technologies such as electronic control devices, and implement community-based policies and programs governing appropriate training, use and placement of such devices in the local use-of-force continuum.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Juveniles used for commercial sex acts and all persons used for labor and commercial sex acts by force, fraud, and coercion are victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, approximately 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the United States according to the U.S. Department of State; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, women and men; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking exist in towns and communities throughout the United States, in a \$13 billion-per-year global industry, according to State Department estimates - including \$7 billion in the illicit-sex industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the TVPRA which addresses the needs of domestic victims, has been significantly under funded impeding the ability of programs and services to be offered to domestic victims,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that Title II of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act be fully funded so that critical programs can be offered to domestic victims of human trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges funding be included in the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to fund the biennial survey of the unlawful commercial sex industry so that cities and towns can have the data they need to successfully combat human trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services' Rescue and Restore Campaign which promotes public awareness about trafficking and the protections available for trafficking victims and urges that this program be expanded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every effort be made to raise the awareness of the horror and inhumanity of human trafficking and the harm done by sex traffickers to victims, families and the community.

**PROTECTING CITY CRITICAL ASSETS UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND
MANHOLE SECURITY**

WHEREAS, there are approximately 9 million manholes in the nation's metropolitan and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the underground houses critical assets, such as telecommunications cable and fiber optics, telephone lines, (voice, data, video, audio, digital) gas and electric lines, water and sewer pipes, transit systems that are our lifelines for commerce, safety and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, manholes, only covered by manhole-covers, are the access points to the underground critical infrastructure and assets are open and apparent access-targets, and are; and

WHEREAS, an attack of terrorism, vandalism or sabotage to our nation's underground infrastructure can cause devastating and paralyzing damage to our communities in service, communication, utility, transit interruptions, loss of business operations and systems, loss of revenue, and have a paralyzing effect upon a city; and

WHEREAS, the manholes are unsecured or inadequately secured and access to the underground infrastructure and critical assets can be so readily accomplished, by lifting the manhole cover or by a turn or clip; such effortless breach of security invites attack and is further conducive to unplanned and surprise attack; and

WHEREAS, technology exists for manholes to be cost effectively secured by a self contained independent locking device,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports federal policy, study and funding that secures our cities' vulnerable underground infrastructure by protecting against breaches of our most critical manholes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such funding would be a pilot program and would NOT be a set-aside or in any other way have a negative effect on current dollars the U.S. Department of Homeland Security distributes to our nation's mayors for critical homeland security efforts.

**ASSURING NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE CAPABILITIES BY AUTHORIZING
AND FULLY FUNDING URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCES**

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue and Metro-Dade County Fire Department created elite search-and-rescue (US&R) teams trained for rescue operations in collapsed buildings, and working with the U.S. State Department and Office of Foreign Disaster Aid, these task forces provided vital search-and-rescue support for catastrophic earthquakes in Mexico City, the Philippines and Armenia; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System in 1989 as a consequence of the Loma Prieta earthquake, establishing a framework for structuring local emergency services personnel into integrated disaster response task forces; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) incorporated this concept into the Federal Response Plan (now the National Response Plan), sponsoring 25 national urban search-and-rescue task forces; and

WHEREAS, today there are 28 US&R task forces hosted by local governments throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, each US&R task force is staffed by at least 70 local firefighters and paramedics with highly specialized training in engineering, emergency medicine, canine handling, firefighting, hazardous materials handling, communications, logistics, and other areas; and

WHEREAS, US&R task forces are equipped to conduct round-the-clock search-and-rescue operations following earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, aircraft accidents, hazardous materials spills, incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, and catastrophic structure collapses; and

WHEREAS, US&R task forces must continue training and evaluation to maintain FEMA accreditation status; and

WHEREAS, FEMA can deploy and direct US&R task forces nationally and internationally for the rescue of victims of structural collapse; and

WHEREAS, the successful deployments of US&R task forces after Hurricane Katrina, the terrorist attacks of 2001, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, and other disasters have drawn national attention and highlighted their value to the national response system; and

WHEREAS, the individual local governments that employ US&R task force members and sponsor their participation have been the primary source of funding to maintain those national assets; and

WHEREAS, creating permanent funding authorization for the US&R task forces, each a national asset, will provide the necessary stability to ensure they are available to assist in times of natural and/or man-made disasters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports an explicit authorization of the Urban Search and Rescue Program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and providing for grants to task forces that ensure equipment, operational, administrative, and training costs continue to be met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges inclusion of a provision that, for any US&R task force member who suffers personal injury, illness, disability, or death as a result of performance of duties during a FEMA deployment, requires the Federal Government to reimburse the state or local employer for the value of any workers compensation benefits paid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to fully fund the operation and maintenance of US&R Task Forces as essential national emergency response assets.

SUPPORTING THE REPEAL OF THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and recognizes the Constitution of the United States as our charter of liberty and the Bill of Rights as affirming the fundamental and inalienable rights of all Americans, including the freedom of privacy and the freedom from unlawful searches and seizures; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors denounces terrorism in all its forms and condemns all acts of terrorism by any entity, wherever the acts may occur, and we wholeheartedly agree that the tragic events of September 11, 2001, require the strengthening of the security, standards, procedures, and requirements for the issuance of driver licenses and identification cards – but we have major concerns with the implementation of this law, as proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, any new security measures to provide protection from terrorist attacks should be carefully designed to enhance public safety without infringing on the civil liberties and rights of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, creates a national identification card by mandating federal standards for state driver licenses and identification cards and requiring state governments to share their motor vehicle databases; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act mandates the documents that state governments must require to issue driver licenses and requires them to place uniform information on every driver's license in a standard, machine-readable format; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act prohibits federal agencies and federally regulated commercial air carriers from accepting a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that has not fully complied with the act, which will inhibit air travel and cripple commerce, tourism, and the freedom of citizens to travel; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act creates a costly unfunded mandate, currently estimated to cost in excess of \$11 billion to implement, and although the Department of Homeland Security announced that 20 percent of the states' Homeland Security Grant Program funds will be made available during the 2007 grant cycle, most of these funds have already been dedicated to first-response agencies of numerous cities, counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act requires the creation of a 50-state database containing information on every American that is accessible to motor vehicle employees and law enforcement officers nationwide and that can be used to gather and manage information on citizens, which is not the responsibility or business of the government; and

WHEREAS, the act enables the creation of additional massive private sector databases, and it is likely that these databases will contain numerous errors and false information, creating significant hardships on Americans attempting to verify their identities in order to fly, open bank accounts, or perform many other ordinary and everyday functions; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act contains onerous record verification and retention provisions that place unreasonable burdens on the motor vehicle divisions and on third parties required to verify records, while concurrently placing enormous burdens on consumers seeking new driver licenses, including waiting in longer lines, higher costs, increased document requests, and longer waiting periods; and

WHEREAS, the act will place motor vehicle division staffs on the front lines of immigration enforcement by forcing public employees to determine federal citizenship and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the act was passed despite not receiving a hearing by any Congressional committee or a vote solely on its own merits, despite widespread opposition; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its support for the United States government's campaign against terrorism, as well as the belief that such campaign should not be waged at the expense of the civil rights and liberties of the citizens of this country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the legislative initiative in United States Senate S. 717 IS, which calls for the repeal of Title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005, to restore Section 7212 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which provides states additional regulatory flexibility and funding authorization to more rapidly produce tamper- and counterfeit-resistant driver licenses, and to protect privacy and civil liberties by providing interested stakeholders with guidance for negotiated rulemaking to achieve improved 21st century licenses to improve national security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States through the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, our federal immigration system is broken and has become mismatched to the economic and social realities of cities; and

WHEREAS, the existing system has created waiting lists for most categories of family reunification to grow longer than five years; and

WHEREAS, the United States federal government and many employers, through practices and policies that are entirely inconsistent with federal laws, have led millions of immigrant workers to believe they are allowed to work in the U.S. without appropriate documentation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy requires hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, far exceeding the outdated quotas currently placed on visas for foreign workers; and

WHEREAS, authorized and unauthorized foreign workers have become essential to the functioning of local economies; and

WHEREAS, inadequate border and internal enforcement mechanisms have allowed an increasing number of unauthorized workers to reside in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the current system has caused societal strain in cities because of the system's tendency to push unauthorized workers into second-class status; and

WHEREAS, federal attempts to deputize local police to enforce federal immigration law have chilled budding relationships between local police and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal effort at deputizing local police with limited immigration authority has the tendency to distract local police departments from their principal charge of preventing crime, ensuring public safety, and serving local communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive immigration reform that would improve security, bolster economic prosperity, and provide the approximately 12 million people already in the U.S. without legal authorization an opportunity to earn their permanent residence and citizenship, provided (1) they have not committed serious crimes, (2) they have learned, or are in the process of learning English, and (3) they pay taxes and social security on their earnings.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY POLICY

WHEREAS, the topics of immigration reform, border security, and state and federal cooperation on these issues are of great importance to The United States Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants, a nation in which immigrants have made and continue to make important contributions to both our economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, studies reveal that immigrants are a major source of tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have demonstrated their patriotism through their valor and bravery in defending this country in numerous military conflicts; and

WHEREAS, border security is critical to the safety, quality of life, and economic prosperity of the border regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, our historical receptiveness toward immigrants reflects our faith in the American ideal, that it is possible for all men and women to improve their status via hard work, and that opportunity should be denied to no one on the basis of their race or country of origin; and

WHEREAS, though today's immigrants, like yesterday's, may arrive in the United States with no money, looking different and speaking foreign languages, they come with an entrepreneurial spirit and desire to live the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, immigrants come to the United States because we are a nation that cherishes individual freedom and rewards individual effort; and

WHEREAS, across the world, walls erected to divide peoples and nations are symbols of failed and repressive efforts to thwart human freedom and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of federal immigration laws is neither a state nor local responsibility and further that state and local agencies do not have the training, expertise or authority to enforce immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, the principle of *posse comitatus*, meaning the necessary and traditional separation of civilian and military authority, is critical and should be renewed and strengthened; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been, and remains, committed to the protection of civil rights, liberties and security for all peoples as expressed in the United States Constitution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our nation's immigration policies to the following principles:

Economics/Fiscal Impact

- Limited state resources should not be diverted to support policies and initiatives that tolerate or result in racial profiling in our communities.
- Instead of wasting precious resources on erecting a wall, the federal government should invest now in secure, fast and smart technology solutions to afford fast movement in our Hemisphere of people and products.
- Initiatives aimed at promoting investment and economic opportunities in Mexico, such as the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity and Mexico's 3 for 1 program that encourages the use of remittances to build local infrastructure and economic development in Mexico, should be supported.
- Legislation that authorizes additional federal funds to states and hospitals for reimbursement of the indirect and direct costs related to emergency health services, prosecution, and the incarceration of undocumented immigrants should be supported.

Education

- A temporary worker program that allows employers to sponsor low-skilled immigrant workers to obtain a permanent residence status should be supported. Undocumented students under the age of 21 should be able to satisfy the requirements under such a program by attending an institution of higher education or a secondary school full-time.
- Our nation must remain committed to the constitutional principles that guarantee a public education for all children regardless of their immigration status.

Legal/Political

- Legislation that focuses solely on enforcement will be ineffective. Our nation needs and should support fair and comprehensive immigration legislation that balances border security concerns with a recognition of the demands of the U.S. for workers in the numerous sectors of the U.S. labor force, including agriculture, construction, and the service economy.
- Local law enforcement should not be required to stop, interrogate, detain or otherwise participate in immigration enforcement activities.
- Our nation should offer a path to citizenship, under clearly defined guidelines, to immigrants who have demonstrated citizenship, paid taxes, and parented citizen children and grandchildren.
- Legislation that provides a larger number of employment and family-based green cards to promote family unification, reduce backlogs in application processing, and that demands sensitive quotas, should be supported.

Security

- Federal resources should be focused on strategies to improve interdiction at our borders.
- It is the federal government's obligation to fund and oversee a robust Border Patrol.
- The United States should embrace technological solutions that offer low-cost alternatives to the interdiction efforts of local law enforcement that lead inevitably to racial profiling
- The development and implementation of plans regarding information-sharing, international and federal-state- local coordination, technology, and anti-smuggling should be supported.

- The development of multilateral agreements to establish a North American security plan to improve border security should be supported.
- Measures that would include anti-fraud measures and biometric data on all visa and immigration documents should be supported.
- The ongoing implementation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America between the U.S., Canada and Mexico aimed at establishing a common security strategy, competitiveness, quality of life, and to promote economic growth by streamlining the secure movement of low-risk traffic across our shared borders, should be supported.

Social Justice

- Legislation that promotes any action by civilians - individual or groups - that interfere with the duties of United States law enforcement officials in securing the border region should be condemned. This should include the apprehension of individuals, the use of any weapons against individuals, or purporting to act in any law enforcement capacity.
- Legislation that criminalizes immigrants, their families, and the organizations that provide assistance to them, should be condemned.
- Legislation or any acts that violate the human rights of immigrants, documented or undocumented should be condemned. Law enforcement agencies, both federal and state, must treat all immigrants with respect and dignity and adhere to the legal rights they are entitled under state, federal or international treaties, especially the rights of minors through the utilization of procedures and programs that protect them.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FUNDING

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, work experience for youth provides educational and enrichment opportunities leading to academic improvement for millions of disadvantaged youth; and

WHEREAS, work experience helps youth develop life skills and values that prepare them for the challenges of adolescence and the responsibilities of adulthood; and

WHEREAS, by 2010, the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults as 41 million new workers enter the workforce to replace the 76 million retiring workers; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably over the past several years, and the overall teen employment rate in the past three years (2004-2006) was the lowest in the past 60 years; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, the 2007 summer jobs outlook for the nation's teens appears to be worse than last year despite an improving national job market for older adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center, last summer only 7.11 million teens worked on average during the months of June-August; and the number of employed teens would have been 8.63 million, or 1.52 million higher, if the 2000 summer teen employment rate had prevailed and 9.5 million, or 2.4 million higher if the summer 1989 employment rate had prevailed; and

WHEREAS, in past decades, there was strong bi-partisan support for a summer jobs program for teens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment to a strong summer jobs program, either by providing funding for year round youth activities at a level equivalent to or greater than the FY 2001 funding levels and ensuring that summer jobs are part of any WIA reauthorization or by enacting a separate summer jobs program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth is funded only from the excess of the amount appropriated for the WIA youth formula program when it is at a level of at least \$1 billion and not at the expense of the year round program.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

WHEREAS, the teen and young adult population is growing fast, particularly among minorities and immigrant youth; and

WHEREAS, by 2010, teens and young adults will make up the largest segment of America's labor force as 41 million new workers enter the workforce, and a staggering 76 million workers enter retirement; and

WHEREAS, according to the research findings of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University:

- The employment rate for teens and young adults are at record lows;
- Since 2000, the nation's teenagers and young adults, especially those without four year college degrees, have experienced steep declines in their employment rates;
- Unemployed, out-of-school young workers have found it difficult to obtain full-time jobs;
- In 2003, almost 5.7 million youth between the ages of 16-24 were out-of-school and out-of-work, up from 4.9 million in 2000;
- While local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth programs have put some teens to work in recent summers, these job placements have offset only a small share of the job losses experienced by teens; and

WHEREAS, the national graduation rate is 68 percent, with nearly one-third of all high school students failing to graduate;

WHEREAS, the growing segment of the young population is among minorities and immigrants who are most impacted by the dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, a well-prepared youth labor market is critical to meet the nation's future workforce demands in a 21st Century global economy; and

WHEREAS, connecting youth to career and skill paths is crucial to ensuring their future contribution as members of the mainstream labor force as adults; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) provides the nation's only comprehensive youth system to improve the education and training prospects for at-risk in-school and out-of-school youth;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's WIA Youth Opportunity Grants represented a major commitment to addressing these conditions and increasing the long term employability of youth living in the poorest communities in our country; and

WHEREAS, disadvantaged youth have been severely underserved since 2000 with the elimination of a separate funding stream for summer job programs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and Congress have eliminated the Youth Opportunity Grants program in the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed to cut services to youth and to allow Governors to reduce or eliminate services to youth altogether by merging the WIA youth formula program into a combined state block grant with WIA adult, dislocated worker and employment service funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress not to include the WIA youth formula program in any block grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in WIA reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Retain the WIA Youth formula program and authorization funding for the formula program at not less than \$1 billion, with an additional \$250 million to automatically reestablish the Youth Opportunity Grants program;
- Provide flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies, including summer jobs, as currently provided in WIA;
- Retain services to both in-school and out-of-school youth;
- Preserve in-school youth programs and in-school services for 14 and 15 year olds.
- Maintain the focus on youth development;
- Ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth be available for both in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly those in high poverty communities and that it must be funded only in excess of the \$1 billion dedicated for the youth formula program.
- Further, ensure funding in excess of \$1 billion to include \$250 million so that successful Youth Opportunity and Youth Offender programs continue to be funded as part of any new national youth program, assuring local support for such efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to make a major new investment in our nation's youth of at least \$1 billion to address the unmet needs of youth who have been adversely affected since 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new investment provide funding for a new initiative to generate summer job and learning opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth both in-school and out-of-school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change in the youth formula allocation and any formula for new programs like the Youth Challenge Grants be substantially weighted to reflect the population to which the funds are targeted, such as high school drop outs, youth in the juvenile justice system, and youth aging out of foster care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate lessons learned from the Youth Opportunity (YO) Grant program into WIA reauthorization and incorporate the YO philosophy of long term, comprehensive support focused on youth development into all youth workforce policies and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment to a strong summer jobs program either by providing funding for year round youth activities at a level equivalent to or greater than the FY 2001 funding levels and that summer jobs are part of any WIA reauthorization or by enacting a separate summer job program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to contribute to solving the pervasive problem of youth poverty by providing significant funding for a jobs stimulus program for young people ages 16 to 24, especially high school dropouts and those living in high poverty neighborhoods.

THE REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

WHEREAS, In 2002 President Bush signed into law the bipartisan, landmark *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act. High academic standards and accountability for all students comprise the framework for federal education reform under the law. Achieving these objectives is important to the future of our children and our cities; and

WHEREAS, Implementing and adhering to the mandates of NCLB is proving to be a challenge and NCLB is in danger of becoming another burdensome under-funded federal mandate. Schools continue to struggle with funding, mandated annual testing, student transfers, and the requirement to provide supplemental services; and

WHEREAS, Schools need flexibility in implementing the standards of NCLB. A reauthorized NCLB should include a workable longitudinal or growth model as well as multiple sources of evidence to measure individual student academic achievement and school performance. There should also be greater flexibility in assessing and measuring the academic progress of students in subgroups, especially those groups facing unique learning challenges, most specifically special education students and English language learners; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient federal resources are needed to finance NCLB programs including: full funding for Title I grants to school districts with a disproportionate number of at-risk students, the main funding source for NCLB; an increase in Title II for Teacher Quality Grants that provide funds to train recruit, and retain highly qualified teachers; the 21 Century Community Learning Centers program that funds afterschool programs for NCLB and other programs in NCLB intended to increase the academic achievement of at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, The Supplemental Education Services (SES) provision is a fundamental element of NCLB that provides disadvantaged students the extra academic help they need to meet the rigorous standards of NCLB. School districts are required to set aside 20% of their scarce federal Title I funds specifically for SES participation. Presently, only 17 percent of eligible students are participating in SES programs. School districts have been deficient in providing families the opportunities to participate in SES. A reauthorized NCLB should include provisions that would allow for all students who need extra help learning and achieving greater accessibility to Supplemental Education Services and provide a

direct source of funding from the federal government for these services; and

WHEREAS, NCLB provides for highly qualified teachers in core academic areas, but should focus on increasing flexibility for meeting the "highly qualified" teacher requirements, particularly for teachers of multiple subjects such as special education, bilingual, middle school, and rural educators, and advancing teacher quality at the highest poverty schools by providing funding to attract and retain quality teachers and improved teaching and learning conditions; and

WHEREAS, NCLB should include a class size reduction program to improve student learning, with priority given to high poverty schools. Research has shown that reducing class sizes has a positive impact on maximizing student learning and closing achievement gaps, particularly in the early grades and students who need more individualized attention; and

WHEREAS, NCLB should reinforce parental involvement programs and encourage community members to interact with neighborhood schools. Programs that encourage parent and community involvement in the school are vital in strengthening families and enhancing quality of life in our cities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that to compete with their international peers, American students must graduate from high school with the academic foundation they will need to succeed in a 21st century economy. If implemented properly and funded, NCLB reforms will allow our kids to succeed and prosper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the federal education policymakers to work closely with Mayors during NCLB reauthorization to examine how NCLB is working in their communities and where improvements are needed, while maintaining a focus on accountability and standards. At the same time the federal government must live up to its commitment and provide the necessary financial resources to implement the mandates in NCLB by fully funding Title I programs to low-income school districts, Teacher Quality Grants, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other important programs under NCLB.

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, mayors are the chief locally elected official in cities and residents hold them accountable for the quality of education provided by the public schools and the quality of the local school system which is not, in most cities, the mayor's responsibility, as well as the quality of life, economic stability and growth, health and welfare, social services, safety, transportation, environment, housing, and other services which are a direct responsibility of the mayor; and

WHEREAS, mayors represent all residents of the city since they are elected by them, and not by districts or at-large, and mayors understand that the city's destiny is in their hands since they do not work in isolation or separation from the community; and

WHEREAS, mayors have a fundamental interest in the quality of education provided in their cities because it is an essential element in drawing new business, building a strong and competitive workforce, and either retaining or attracting new residents; and

WHEREAS, the economic future and strength of our cities lies in the quality of education and related services provided to children so they are ready to learn and attain the core fundamental skills during their years in schools so they are prepared for postsecondary education and/or the world of work; and

WHEREAS, mayors understand the need for a nexus between education, related social services and other mayoral areas of responsibility which are key components to insure students have the support services, experiences and environments appropriate to encourage and support learning; and

WHEREAS, mayors are best positioned to forge a common vision for educational equity and excellence; establish collaborative groups and task forces focused on specific education issues to address problems; create a public and political will for public schools; expand services to students when needed; turn educational crises into opportunities; develop creative partnerships in the best interests of teaching and learning; facilitate opportunities for students, teachers and schools which otherwise would not happen, and make tough or difficult decisions; and

WHEREAS, mayors can use their bully pulpit to raise issues and confront uncomfortable problems, establish a dialogue, build civic capacity and engagement, bring all critical stakeholders to the table, and create partnerships when no one else can in the city,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to take on a critical and essential leadership and involvement role in local public education which can range from working as a partner with the local school system to address education needs, problems and issues to one where the mayor has the legal responsibility for the governance of the city's public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly suggests that mayors who decide to become involved in education first assess their capacity for their level of engagement and make sure they include all aspects of the community in their efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a wide range of options for mayoral leadership and involvement in education including:

- taking responsibility for after-school programs, creating or authorizing charter schools,
- participating in teacher recruitment,
- establishing programs to assist in housing for teachers and other education professionals,
- sponsoring policies and practices in city government that encourage tutoring, mentoring and other volunteer work with students,
- visibly supporting school bond and tax levies,
- enhancing and encouraging parental involvement,
- facilitating business partnerships with schools,
- creating options for alternative learning opportunities and settings directed at at-risk in-and out-of school youth,
- developing education opportunities and settings for recently release juvenile offenders and those ending their foster care,
- helping in the construction and modernization of school facilities into joint use and community learning centers,
- providing recreation and athletic facility options for students and library facilities
- establishing recognition programs for educators,
- engaging in or mediating contracts when appropriate,
- lobbying for improved funding, and new policies and programs at the state and federal level that enhance improvement and change, facilitating the conversation and working relationship between local government,

public schools, and higher education, having the governance responsibility for the city's public school system,

- participating in the selection of school board members and/or the superintendent,
- offering transparency to the school budget process,
- overseeing the school budget process and implementation,
- taking responsibility for backroom services for the schools to make them more efficient and cost effective such as IT, personnel, payroll, school security, and/or other management functions, and
- creating summer and during the school-year jobs, and internship and work experience opportunities linked to academic and career skill building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and supports the rightful role of mayors in doing what needs to be done to promote the interests of public school students and parents, and the schools, align the efforts of the city and the school system, and improve the lives, and education outcomes and opportunities of the children who attend the public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports mayoral leadership and involvement in education that makes a positive difference in the quality of teaching and learning in the city's schools, whether through direct forms of involvement or informal means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports a myriad of choices in selecting the level of mayoral leadership and involvement in education including utilization of the bully pulpit to build political support for education improvement that provides the impetus school districts need to speed reforms; fostering greater student achievement; providing greater visibility to important issues which forces decisions to be made; creating programs when needed; increasing public participation; working to enhance funding and resources; and setting new priorities when necessary.

SUPPORT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act in 2002, there has been an increased emphasis on the academic achievement of English Language Learners (ELLs). The English Learner subgroup under NCLB is required to meet certain benchmarks each academic year as a way to measure a school's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). Currently, the law does not recognize the achievement of individual students; and

WHEREAS, nationally, over 10% of the student population speaks a language other than English in their homes. In the 2004-2005 school year, 5, 119, 561 K-12 students were identified as English Language Learners; and

WHEREAS, the academic and language development needs of ELLs throughout the nation are growing at staggering rates. The English Language Learner student population nationwide has increased by 60.76% since the 1994-1995 school year; and

WHEREAS, student assessments under NCLB have documented the need for significant academic and learning supports for ELLs and a deeply troubling achievement gap between ELLs and students who are fluent in English. Therefore, it is critically important that closing the achievement gap for language minority youth and assuring that all students experience high levels of academic success becomes a share national goal; and

WHEREAS, NCLB requires that all students reach proficient or higher levels of academic achievement by the year 2014. Presently, only a small percentage of ELLs receive full access to both English language development and the core academic curriculum they need to meet the requirements of NCLB and to succeed academically; and

WHEREAS, this disturbing fact not only has consequences for the English learners themselves, but for the schools and districts that serve them as well. An increasing number of schools are identified as not meeting AYP and placed in Program Improvement due to the academic achievement gaps experienced by ELL students,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that English learner students must have the opportunity to meet the same high level academic standards set for all students. As NCLB reauthorization proceeds, the United States Conference of Mayors asks federal education policymakers to allow

for flexibility in achieving this goal, including the use of a growth model to measure individual student achievement without labeling students and schools as failures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors asks the federal government to provide sufficient funds to education agencies for the development of a systemic academic curriculum, including the use of research-based instruction models that identify best practices, to ensure that English learners achieve and sustain high levels of academic proficiency, linguistic skills and multi-cultural competency and are prepared for 21st Century citizenship.

IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and

WHEREAS, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both subjects than higher income children, make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, and drop out at twice the overall rate; and

WHEREAS, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and

WHEREAS, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult, and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and

WHEREAS, only about half of all Black, Hispanic, and Native American students who enter ninth grade will graduate 12th grade on time, and graduation rates in some cities for minority males as a group are even lower; and

WHEREAS, in contrast, the overall high school graduation rate in the U.S. is 68 percent, and for white students it is 75 percent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to:

- Strengthen its investment in quality neighborhood primary and secondary public schools;
- Increase its investment in all public schools so that all children have an equal opportunity to learn, and use the additional funding to improve teachers' salaries, finance school construction and modernization, make art and music education available to all students, encourage diverse and creative curricula, provide before- and after-school programming, and encourage a smaller student-to-teacher ratio in classrooms;
- Adopt the policy recommendations of the National Academies to improve K-12 science and mathematics education and provide support for recruiting more qualified teachers and setting higher standards for students;

- Reform the No Child Left Behind Act to address disincentives for high-quality teachers to teach at poorly performing urban schools;
- Fund demonstration projects designed to improve teacher quality across all grades of public schools;
- Consider options for reforming K-12 education bureaucracies to achieve savings and greater effectiveness;
- Encourage the development of and provide support for school district institution of student-centered contracts and increasing teacher pay to improve education results;
- Fully fund English as a Second Language programs in public schools; and
- Develop more effective approaches to student retention in drop-out prevention and mitigation programs - approaches which begin in the primary grades and continue through high school - and strategies which extend to students who have already dropped out, to reconnect them with school and jobs.

INCREASING ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

WHEREAS, while three-quarters of new job growth will require some training and education beyond high school, and between 2000 and 2020, the number of workers with at least some college education is projected to increase by just four percent; and

WHEREAS, a college education is increasingly unaffordable to a large portion of the public, as evidenced by the fact that since 1980 the inflation-adjusted cost of tuition at a four-year public college has increased by 190 percent while median family income has increased by only about 18 percent; and

WHEREAS, as of 2005, only 19 percent of working-age adults with incomes below the median income had earned a college credential, compared to more than 46 percent of higher income adults who had earned a credential; and

WHEREAS, high school graduates trying to pay for college currently turn to an array of credit subsidies provided by federal and state governments and private institutions; and

WHEREAS, while aid available for higher education has increased, borrowing to pay for college is not a viable long-term solution for many students because the debt payments will be beyond their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, students from lower income families are finding they cannot afford college because costs have increased so much faster than the caps for federal subsidies, such as Pell Grants; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed significantly cutting or eliminating funding for Adult Education, TRIO programs, and vocational education - all important federal post-secondary education programs; and

WHEREAS, millions of low-income students don't benefit from current federal education tax incentives; and

WHEREAS, many states have state-sponsored college savings programs, but not all of them match contributions made by low- and moderate-income families to their accounts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the federal government to:
Increase the value of the Pell Grant for today's low-income students who cannot take advantage of lifetime learning accounts;

Protect existing programs and benefits that help create an educated and competitive work force: Pell Grants, Adult Education, TRIO programs, and vocational education;
Consider consolidating existing higher education tax credits, such as the Hope Scholarship, the Lifetime Learning Credit, and the higher education deduction, into a single consolidated College Tax Credit that could be used at accredited colleges or universities by students and workers seeking to start or continue their educations, and in conjunction with lifetime learning savings accounts; and
Link College Tax Credits to Individual Development Accounts to encourage low-income families to save, build assets, and work towards paying for post-secondary education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges state governments to provide matching grants to low- and moderate-income families as part of their state-sponsored college savings programs.

STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act, the law creating nation's largest program for providing skills training, can provide training for less than one percent of the nation's workforce; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has cut funding for job training programs by over \$1 billion since FY 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed an additional \$950 million in funding cuts for job training programs in the FY 2008 budget; and

WHEREAS, the current federal restrictions on training do not allow for a variety of training tools and strategies necessary for individuals to gain skills to advance beyond entry level positions; and

WHEREAS, the nation faces the prospect of acute skills shortages, with one estimate indicating that the United States faces a shortfall of 14 million workers for skilled jobs by 2020, as job demands continue to rise but the education level of the workforce remains static; and

WHEREAS, the building trades continue to provide a steady supply of good paying jobs, often on projects which positively impact local economies, yet sufficient training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades are lacking; and

WHEREAS, local governments together with the business community and the workforce and education systems must identify strategies needed to address the skills requirements demanded by the local labor market; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive skills training and education strategies must be part of local job training systems that align with the labor market demands of local economies where businesses - the end users of the system - are located,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to:

- Strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by increasing funding, improving regional and private-sector coordination, and expanding outreach to immigrants;
- Provide incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
- Provide additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades;

- Enlist regional employers as partners having a vested interest in the success of workforce development programs;
- Provide adequate funding for federal programs which have demonstrated success in developing a competitive workforce, such as summer youth employment, Youth Incentive Entitlement Pilot Projects, adult education/G.E.D, literacy, Pell grants, TRIO, vocational education, and incumbent worker programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- Encourage employees (especially within large businesses) to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools, particularly those with lower college placement rates;
- Work with educators and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to regional workforce trends;
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify key regional job trends;
- Support federal and state standards-based education.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INCREASING FUNDING FOR YOUTHBUILD

WHEREAS, there are 2.4 million young low-income adults in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 who have left high school without a diploma or who are unemployed; and

WHEREAS, in YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people; and

WHEREAS, strong emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to success; and

WHEREAS, in YouthBuild programs the most disadvantaged youth are brought into the productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 there were more than 220 YouthBuild programs in 42 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, engaging approximately 8,000 young adults; and

WHEREAS, from 2001 to 2005, 89 percent of YouthBuild students entered the program without their GED or diploma, 33 percent had been adjudicated, and 27 percent received public assistance prior to joining YouthBuild and, in spite of these overwhelming odds, 58 percent completed the program and 78 percent of graduates went on to college or jobs averaging \$8.41/hour; and

WHEREAS, YouthBuild is a public-private partnership in which each YouthBuild program secures its own funding, generally a mix of government (federal, state, and local) and private support; and

WHEREAS, federal support for YouthBuild was first authorized under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1992 and reauthorized within the Workforce Investment Act under the U.S. Department of Labor by the YouthBuild Transfer Act (Public Law 109-281) in September 2006, when it passed by unanimous consent in both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 more than 68,000 YouthBuild students have produced over 16,000 units of low-income housing; and

WHEREAS, the nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is critical to workforce development, crime prevention, and economic development,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal, state, and local governments to increase their investment in YouthBuild; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase the level of the annual funding for the YouthBuild program to at least \$140 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that the YouthBuild program is funded only from the excess of the amount appropriated for the WIA youth formula program when it is at a level of at least \$1 billion and not at the expense of the year-round program.

PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, unemployment and a lack of both skills and quality jobs are major causes of poverty; and

WHEREAS, in areas of high unemployment and stagnant job growth it is especially hard for low-skilled workers to obtain jobs; and

WHEREAS, public service employment would stabilize the workforce supply and increase wage stability for all workers; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the U.S. Department of Labor has funded public service employment programs targeted to economically disadvantaged or long-term unemployed individuals on a temporary, short-term basis as a means of providing income maintenance or human capital development for workers and valuable services for the community that would not otherwise have been available; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor is currently funding public service employment efforts through the Youthbuild program and a waiver provided to the State of Texas which permits public service employment under a National Emergency Grant for residents affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to provide funding for a public service employment program which hires economically disadvantaged and long-term unemployed individual to work in projects which address identified community needs.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long been an advocate of increasing the federal minimum wage to reduce the hardship on low-income workers; and

WHEREAS, real median income increased by 0.6 percent between 2004 and 2005, but all of that increase occurred among the top 20 percent of income earners, and the percentage change in real median income for each of the bottom four quintiles declined; and

WHEREAS, since September 1997, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has deteriorated by 20 percent and, after adjusting for inflation, the value of the minimum wage is at its lowest level since 1955; and

WHEREAS, wage inequality has been increasing, in part because of the declining real value of the minimum wage, which currently is 31 percent of the average hourly wage of American workers, the lowest level since the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi early in 2007 expressing support for legislation increasing the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, Congress approved legislation on May 24 which was signed into law by the President on May 25 increasing the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors commends Congress and the President for enacting legislation that will increase the federal minimum wage from the current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years.

USING THE TAX CODE TO HELP LOWER INCOME FAMILIES DEVELOP ASSETS

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers, currently benefiting more than 21 million of America's workers, or approximately 15 percent of the nation's labor force; and

WHEREAS, while the EITC is an effective support for many low-income workers, it does not provide needed assistance to most low-wage childless workers, and two-worker families are much less likely to qualify for the EITC than one-worker families; and

WHEREAS, renewing the Saver's Credit would provide matching contributions to retirement plans of up to 50 percent for families earning \$50,000 or less per year, up to a maximum of \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, California's "ReadyReturn" program has reduced the tax-filing burden for many eligible Californians through the State's use of information it already has on hand, such as that contained in W-2 forms, to provide taxpayers with a completed return which they can approve and submit to the State; and

WHEREAS, while most of the major new federal policy expansions that benefit lower and middle income households have happened through the tax code, most of the subsidies available have disparate eligibility standards, are difficult to understand, and vary between nonrefundable and refundable tax credits; and

WHEREAS, consolidating all of the existing tax credits into a Comprehensive Family Tax Credit could expand access to the various tax credits now available and ease administrative burdens and costs; and

WHEREAS, savings incentives, such as preferential tax treatment of IRAs and 401(k)s, do not help low- and moderate-income families, and nearly two-thirds of the benefits go to the top 20 percent of income earners; and

WHEREAS, many low-income families and individuals are forced to go to expensive tax preparation services and thus spend a significant portion of the tax credits they are due just to be able to file a return,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the federal tax code so that the benefits available to lower income families will be increased, simplified, and easier to access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that specific reforms to the federal tax code include:

- Substantially expanding the EITC so that it better rewards hard working, lower income families and expands eligibility for single adults by increasing the maximum benefit for childless, single adults from \$399 to \$1,600, allowing two-income households to deduct the lower of the two incomes from their eligibility, indexing the EITC to the minimum wage, and simplifying regulations to fit the current demographics and ensure that it is helping the people who need it most;
- Increasing and making refundable the federal Saver's Credit, which provides matching contributions to families, providing further incentives for families to save;

- Adopting California's "ReadyReturn" program, which would greatly simplify tax compliance for the great majority of Americans who do not itemize their taxes;
- Considering the establishment of a Comprehensive Family Tax Credit which would pool together the many different policies that currently support lower income, working families;
- Creating a single, consolidated Jobs Tax Credit to create jobs in high poverty areas;
- Providing tax credits to employers and financial institutions that match savings of low-income employees and consumers;
- Increasing 410(k) participation by encouraging companies to auto-enroll employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that free tax preparation services be available to lower income working families and individuals, and that an extensive outreach campaign be undertaken to encourage eligible families to take advantage of them.

PROVIDING FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR CAREER ACADEMIES

WHEREAS, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and

WHEREAS, more than 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and

WHEREAS, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and

WHEREAS, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of our urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and

WHEREAS, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both reading and mathematics than higher income children, and they make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, doing so at twice the overall rate; and

WHEREAS, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and

WHEREAS, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult, and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and

WHEREAS, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating, and the Council of the Great City Schools reports that in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas, fewer than one-half of entering ninth graders graduate high school within four years; and

WHEREAS, this adds up to millions of young Americans who reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success, as

the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and

WHEREAS, mainstream high school education, with its focus on college preparation, does not speak to the aspirations or plans of millions of students; and

WHEREAS, the school-wide career academies model for K-12 education, by contrast, does address some of these goals by placing greater focus on preparation for jobs and careers, emphasizing career exploration through vocationally oriented instruction in fields ranging from graphic design and information technology to healthcare and teaching; and

WHEREAS, career academies typically serve between 150 and 200 high school students, combining traditional curricula with career-oriented training that is designed to better prepare students to move into the labor force; and

WHEREAS, high-performing career academies maintain partnerships with regional employers both to make students aware of their career options and provide work-based internships and other learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that students - especially young men - who matriculate through a career academy fare better after high school than those of similar circumstances who do not; and

WHEREAS, one recent study found that earnings for participants were higher by an average of \$212 per month than for youth who did not participate, an 18 percent difference in annual compensation; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the career academy approach go beyond earnings; and

WHEREAS, program participants have shown higher rates of both high school completion and postsecondary enrollment than the national average; and

WHEREAS, employers also realize value by helping to inform the school curricula in their communities, better preparing the next generation of workers for jobs in their businesses; and

WHEREAS, current socio-economic trends are creating opportunities for career-track work that pays family-supporting wages but does not require a four-year college degree; and

WHEREAS, private as well as public sector employers are willing and able to train and then hire youth for career opportunities in work that offers family-supporting wages; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions which call for the creation of, and investment in, career academies and similar educational models,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state and local governments to work together with private sector stakeholders to invest in expanding access to career exploration and preparation through career academies and other strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors believes that schools should conform to well-tested standards of practice, and establish clear guidelines for evaluation of program effectiveness, including benchmarks for college and career success and student achievement.

SUPPORTING LIFETIME LEARNING SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and

WHEREAS, more than 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and

WHEREAS, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and

WHEREAS, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and

WHEREAS, globalizing trade and commerce has spurred demand for highly skilled labor and accountability in our educational system; and

WHEREAS, U.S. employers place a much higher premium on educational attainment and high-value job skills than in the past; and

WHEREAS, already, more than 60 percent of human resource managers express concern about the availability of skilled workers, reflected in part by the fact that the average time needed to fill a vacant position has increased from 37 to 51 days; and

WHEREAS, our nation faces the prospect of acute skills shortages; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of new job growth will require some training and education beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2020, the number of workers with at least some college education is projected to increase by just four percent, while by contrast, between 1980 and 2000, this number rose by nearly 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, statistics like these have labor market experts very concerned that we are facing the prospect of a "skills gap" in the U.S. workforce demonstrated by an estimate of a U.S. shortfall of 14 million workers for skilled jobs by 2020, as job demands

continue to rise but the education level of the workforce remains static; and

WHEREAS, the nation's current tools to address these shortages are too ineffective and inefficient to address this critical need and chief among these shortcomings, a college education is increasingly unaffordable to a large portion of the public; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the inflation-adjusted cost of tuition at a four-year public college has increased by more than 190 percent; during that same time, median family income increased by only about 18 percent; and

WHEREAS, the result is a class bias in educational attainment: as of 2005, only 19 percent of working-age adults with incomes below the median income had earned a college credential compared with more than 46 percent of higher income adults; and

WHEREAS, high school graduates trying to pay for college currently turn to an array of credit and subsidies provided by the federal and state governments and private institutions, and while aid from these sources has increased, borrowing to pay for college is not a viable long-term solution because the debt payments will eventually be cost-prohibitive for many graduates; and

WHEREAS, already students from lower income families are finding they cannot afford college because costs have increased so much faster than the caps for federal subsidies such as Pell Grants; and

WHEREAS, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and

WHEREAS, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult. The poverty rate of high-school dropouts, for instance, is three times that of those who graduate; and

WHEREAS, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating; and

WHEREAS, this adds up to millions of young Americans who reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and

WHEREAS, educational attainment is the best predictor of economic success as an adult; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions supporting increased access to secondary education and adult skills training,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to open a savings account for every child born in this country, depositing up to \$500 at the child's birth and providing an annual income-indexed match of up to \$500 for deposits made by family and third parties, until the child's 18th birthday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to create a powerful new incentive to complete high school, account holders will not be able to access these accounts until they graduate, thereby helping to lower the dropout rate, which is higher than 50 percent in some cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds can be used only for higher education or career training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds withdrawn from this account should not be taxed.

**ADOPTING EPA'S ENERGY STAR CHALLENGE TO REDUCE ENERGY USE IN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities and the federal government to take action to reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has determined that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions, the major cause of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. commercial building sector is a major consumer of energy, and is responsible for 18 percent of national emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted policy to address energy efficiency and carbon neutrality in new buildings; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities across the U.S. have fadopted high performance green building principles for municipal and other buildings; and

WHEREAS, existing buildings within a municipality represent one of the most significant and immediate opportunities for cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions substantially; and

WHEREAS, cities can lead by example by demonstrating how green, energy-efficient municipal buildings have reduced their own energy consumption as well as encouraging others in their community to do the same; and

WHEREAS, most commercial building operators can reduce their buildings' energy use through low and no cost efforts, or though cost effective improvements; and

WHEREAS, saving energy in a community not only results in environmental benefits, but also results in economic savings for the city, businesses, and others which will have a positive economic impact on the community; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA's ENERGY STAR Program has issued a Challenge to America's buildings to reduce energy use by 10 percent or more, and the EPA estimates that if all buildings met this goal, by 2015 Americans would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to

those from 15 million vehicles, while saving about \$10 billion on energy bills; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA's ENERGY STAR Program believes that local governments are key in helping meet this Challenge - by achieving energy efficiency goals within their own facilities, providing a model for other building owners to emulate, and by leveraging their relationships with building owners within their jurisdiction through outreach, promotions, and incentives or recognition that can improve the energy efficiency of America's buildings; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA's ENERGY STAR Program offers a wide variety of free tools and resources that can be used by mayors and building operators to improve the energy efficiency of buildings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly endorses the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge as a key strategy in meeting the goals of the Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to join the ENERGY STAR Challenge and receive access to a variety of free U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's tools and resources as participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors, working in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Program, will make available tools and resources to its members to assist them in their efforts to develop plans to meet the goals of the ENERGY STAR Challenge in all city owned and operated buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors, working in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Program, will make available tools and resources to its members to assist them in their efforts to engage building owners and operators within its members' jurisdictions to encourage them to join the ENERGY STAR Challenge and meet the goals of the Challenge in all buildings in the city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate organizations to develop plans to fully implement actions as mentioned above.

GRIDWISE™ AND SMART GRID POLICIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has declared that climate change could have severe economic and environmental impacts on U.S. cities in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, power plants produce 39 percent of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, electricity demand is predicted to increase by 40 percent in the next 20 years with a significant percentage of that occurring in the next nine years; and

WHEREAS, on April 2-3, 2003, 65 senior executives representing the electric utility industry, equipment manufacturers, information technology providers, Federal and state government agencies, interest groups, universities, and National Laboratories met and reported their findings in the Department of Energy Report "GRID 2030" A NATIONAL VISION FOR ELECTRICITY'S SECOND 100 YEARS stating that America's electric system is aging, inefficient, and congested, and incapable of meeting the future energy needs of the Information Economy without operational changes and substantial capital investment over the next several decades; and

WHEREAS, accessible, abundant, and affordable electric power is one of the cornerstones of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that an efficient, affordable electricity transmission and distribution system is a cornerstone of our national prosperity and American way of life; and

WHEREAS, with a business-as-usual solution, the U.S. must invest a minimum of \$450 billion in conventional electric infrastructure – generation, transmission, and distribution – over the next 20 years just to meet demand for a growing population and economy; and

WHEREAS, GridWise™ and Smart Grid concepts are initiatives to stimulate the development and adoption of an

intelligent energy system that enables more effective use of the existing U.S. electric system and is an important first step in reducing the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions, combating global warming and saving billions of dollars in antiquated infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, these concepts promote digital automation of the entire power supply system—from generator to consumer—to improve reliability and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. electrical infrastructure will evolve as a highly automated and interconnected network stewarding the environment in a responsible manner and enabling growth of the national economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the implementation of GridWise™ Smart Grid Policies. The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort and to add intelligent energy systems to their climate change and energy efficiency efforts. Connecting smart buildings with a smart grid will have a greater impact on energy efficiency, further the reduction of GHG emissions, and increase the reliability, security and economic viability of the US Electric grid.

**ENDORISING FEDERAL POLICIES TO INCREASE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY
EFFICIENCY USING STRATEGICALLY-PLANTED TREES**

WHEREAS, America's mayors are committed to improving energy efficiency across the country; and,

WHEREAS, reducing domestic demand for energy is one of the central components of a comprehensive strategy to fight global warming; and

WHEREAS, energy devoted to heating and cooling homes accounts for more than half of all residential electricity usage in the United States; and

WHEREAS, strategically-planted trees serve the dual purpose of creating shade in the summer and protection from cold winds during the winter; and

WHEREAS, shade trees planted in targeted locations near homes can reduce residential electrical demand by up to 25 percent in the summer and up to 30 percent in the winter; and

WHEREAS, urban trees absorb carbon dioxide, ozone, nitrogen, and cancer-causing particulate matter pollution; and

WHEREAS, certain West Coast cities have generated a \$2.80 return investment on every dollar spent to expand urban tree cover; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento, California in partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento Tree Foundation have already helped conserve 16 megawatts of electricity by distributing over 400,000 free shade trees to rate-paying customers; FGFRFC

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the effectiveness of strategically-planted shade trees in improving energy efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the development of federal policies to expand proven residential tree-planting programs in cities and communities across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges to work with federal policymakers to broaden the use of strategically-planted trees with the aim of increasing residential energy efficiency, improving public health, and fighting global warming.

PROMOTING DOMESTIC SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States imports up to 64 percent of the petroleum and 19 percent of the natural gas our nation uses, forcing Americans to suffer from huge spikes in the price of international oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, the nation's dependence on imported oil results in the purchase of much of that oil from nations whose foreign policy aims and human rights standards do not coincide with those of the United States; and

WHEREAS, dependence on foreign energy sources has threatened national security and put our military forces in harm's way in order to ensure that energy supplies are not disrupted; and.

WHEREAS, there is high potential for oil and gas development in North America and especially Alaska, where 30 trillion cubic feet of proven reserves of natural gas are currently on the North Slope, and vast unproven reserves exist throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, construction of a 2,000-mile, 52-inch-diameter Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline would create thousands of good-paying jobs for American workers and could fire American steel mills with the 6 million tons of steel necessary to build this pipeline; and

WHEREAS, an Alaska gas pipeline would deliver nearly 4.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to American homes and factories, almost 8 percent of domestic gas consumption at current rates, and

WHEREAS, natural gas is a cleaner-burning, environmentally friendly fuel which will help the nation reduce impacts on global climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of fueling America's economic engine through a steady supply of inexpensive energy such as that which could be provided by Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorse, pending completion of appropriate environmental review, a project to bring Alaska gas to market and that any such project must ensure full pipeline safety to protect the public and environment.

PROMOTION OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

WHEREAS, all people have a right to clean, reliable sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, the health of the planet, including its oceans, wildlands, rivers, air, and climate, faces increasing threats from our continued dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the United States while representing less than 5% of the world's population, releases a projected 25% of all greenhouse gases worldwide, the major contributor of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the United States' overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels makes its economy increasingly vulnerable to destabilizing fuel price fluctuations; and

WHEREAS, the United States' electric utility sector ranks first among U.S. industries emitting toxic pollution, as listed in the federal Toxic Release Inventory, releasing 1 billion pounds of toxic substances in 2004, more than the chemical, paper, plastics and refining industries combined; and

WHEREAS, increased domestic production of oil is an unsustainable and environmentally damaging alternative to foreign sources of oil; and

WHEREAS, the full societal costs of reliance upon fossil fuels are not reflected in retail prices for energy, due to a wide array of subsidies and long-term environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, the artificially deflated costs of energy in the United States lead to an enormous waste of energy through inefficient vehicle fuel economy, appliances, and industries; and

WHEREAS, numerous alternative technologies for producing abundant energy from clean renewable sources currently exist, including tidal, wave, wind, solar, and geothermal electricity, and alternative fuels for vehicles; and

WHEREAS, widespread adoption of these technologies by United States energy policy would substantially reduce the need for producing energy from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, numerous United States cities have already initiated their own policies to support development of renewable energy technologies and use of alternative fuels, and, in so doing, have reduced their dependence on fossil fuels, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy consumption, and saved taxpayer dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress and Administration to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive energy policy focused on: (1) reducing the United States' dependence on fossil fuels, (2) dramatically increasing the production of energy and fuel from clean, sustainable, and renewable sources, including tidal, wave, solar, wind and geothermal electricity, (3) appropriate incentives for clean, renewable energy and to encourage conservation, and (4) increased production of vehicles powered by clean renewable sources of energy.

**PROVIDING COMPARABLE INCENTIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
RENEWABLE ENERGY BY PUBLIC ENTITIES**

WHEREAS, there continues to be strong and growing support for increased production from renewable and clean energy resources at the local, state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, Congress has consistently provided privately-owned energy companies with tax code-based incentives for such investments (such as the Section 45 production tax credit, PTC); and

WHEREAS, not-for-profit public power systems and rural electric cooperatives, which together serve twenty-five percent of America's electric consumers, have long sought a comparable incentive for this type of development; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) in 1992, to provide a comparable incentive to produce renewable energy for these not-for-profit utilities; and

WHEREAS, REPI depends on annual appropriations and has never received sufficient funds to meet the significant demand for this program; and

WHEREAS, Congress sought to address this situation by including the Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 05), whereby public power systems and rural electric cooperatives were to receive financial incentives comparable to the production tax credit provided to for-profit companies; and

WHEREAS, authorization for the CREB program has been limited by a cap on the available bond authority, which weakens the comparability to the PTC, as the use of the PTC is unlimited except in terms of entities that can use it; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which implements the CREB program, has developed an allocation methodology for CREBs that gives preference to small projects over large projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress continue to provide appropriations for the Renewable Energy Production Incentive

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to extend the CREB program for multiple years beyond 2008 in conjunction with and for the same term as it extends the production tax credit and investment tax credit for the for-profit utility sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to eliminate the volume cap on the CREB program and modify the allocation methodology to create more parity among large and small renewable projects.

**FORMATION OF A FEDERAL TAX POLICY FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, CLEAN
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the Congress has traditionally used federal tax policy to encourage individuals and businesses to invest in ways that help the nation meet national objectives and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently accounts for five percent of the world's population, but produces 30% of the world's greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations and other prominent research organizations have now concluded that global warming is significantly caused by human behavior and the emission of greenhouse gases into the earth's atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, any comprehensive national policy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases must include investment in the development of renewable energy technologies and alternative distribution systems; the replacement of older heating and cooling equipment with more energy efficient systems; and the development and construction of more energy efficient transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, current Federal tax policy includes tax preferences to technologies and industries that are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass comprehensive tax legislation that provides new and/or increased tax preferences for the development and application of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including but not limited to renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar and biomass; energy retrofits for industrial and commercial buildings and homes; financing instruments that states and localities could use to raise interest free capital to be used to finance projects that improve energy efficiency from smart transportation infrastructure to retrofitting municipal buildings or to create lending programs to invest in local businesses or residents who deploy energy efficient technology to buildings and homes; alternative transportation fuel technologies such as hybrid, electric and hydrogen cars, trucks, and buses; and development incentives for public transportation and mass transit systems, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress conduct a study to identify current tax preferences that encourage the use of technologies that contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and consider their elimination.

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT BLOCK
GRANT**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is real and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, over 500 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels;

WHEREAS, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been implementing innovative strategies at the local level including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reutilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have worked cooperatively with the private sector to implement innovative energy-saving and environmental strategies that have resulted in

energy and cost savings while improving the environment;
and

WHEREAS, Mayors throughout the nation have been educating their constituents on these issues and through leading by example have positively influenced change in their citizens behavior and practices;

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors has held two national Energy and Environment Summits that have highlighted these types of innovative programs that Mayors and their local governments have been implementing that have resulted in the reduction of energy use, lower energy costs, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and overall improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, many of these programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities have not been able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors has previously called for the creation of an Energy and Environmental Block Grant program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to create an Energy and Environmental Block Grant at the Department of Energy, modeled after the very successful Community Development Block Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Energy and Environment Block Grant program would provide direct funding to city,

county and state governments for purposes of funding innovative energy saving strategies that reduce energy consumption, promote alternative energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to authorize and appropriate the Energy and Environment Block Grant starting at \$4 billion annually.

PROMOTING THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ON ALL NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS TO REDUCE CO2 AND OTHER POLLUTANTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has declared that climate change could have severe economic and environmental impacts on US cities in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has developed stating that the increased emissions of human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs), including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and other GHGs, that are released into the atmosphere are affecting the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, a new report published on May 7, 2007 by 47 scientists from our most prestigious research institutions (from NASA in New York to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California) concluded that "little time remains" and "the rapid growth of CO₂ producing infrastructure for another decade" may make it impossible to keep CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere under the dangerous level of 450 ppm; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that a continuous and secure supply of energy is critical to our economy and the safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, coal is currently a major source of energy in the US and will continue to play a role for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, new coal-fired power plants will have up to a 60 year life span and will emit large quantities of CO₂, as well as other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 151 new coal fired power plants either proposed or in development in the United States according the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the US Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, advanced coal technologies currently exist to capture and store CO₂ emissions from coal-fired power plants and to reduce other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury; and

WHEREAS, several federal policy options are under consideration to encourage the use of CO₂ capture and storage technology; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has declared that action is needed to reduce GHG emissions and by utilizing advanced energy technologies such action can have significant economic and environmental benefits for US cities, including increased energy efficiency, increased renewable energy generation, improved air quality, cost savings, job growth, increased city revenues, and reduced water pollution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in further research efforts to continue developing less expensive advanced coal technologies and in developing strategies and cost sharing mechanisms, partnering with state and local governments in this effort to promote and install advanced coal technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors promotes the installation of advanced coal technologies to capture and store CO₂ emissions and other pollutants as the logical next step for the construction of any new coal-fired power plants in the US. The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges all mayors from around the nation to join this effort to encourage their state and the federal government to promote the use of these technologies to mitigate climate change

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle with CO₂ sequestration and storage as Best Available Control Technology (BACT).

SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING GREEN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, more than 55 million students and more than 5 million faculty, staff, and administrators spend their days in school buildings; and

WHEREAS, schools represent the largest construction sector in the United States -- \$80 billion in 2006 - 2008 - which means that greening school buildings is a significant opportunity to have a major impact on human, environmental, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, green schools using the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system use an average of 35 percent less energy compared to conventional schools and produce a commensurate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, making green schools an important part of the solution to global warming; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas of daylighting, acoustics, and classroom design - all of which have a profound impact on children's ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, green schools have superior indoor air quality and thermal comfort, significantly reducing children exposure to chemicals and environmental toxins; and

WHEREAS, the benefit of cleaner indoor air quality - a key emphasis of green schools - have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher retention rates; and

WHEREAS, green schools cost less to operate and greatly reduce water and energy use, which generate significant financial savings; and

WHEREAS, if all new school construction and school renovations went green starting today, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next 10 years, according to a recent study by Capital E, and on average, according to the same study, a green school saves \$100,000 per year - enough to hire two new teachers, buy 500 new computers, or purchase 5,000 new textbooks; and

WHEREAS, the modest increase in upfront costs to build green schools -- on average 2 percent - is paid back in the

first year of operations based on energy savings alone; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by creating an exhibit of learning where the building becomes an eco-friendly education catalyst and maximizes educational opportunities for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors endorses that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school as the necessary and appropriate goal of our nation -- and the long-term target toward which our individual communities also should arrive.

IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support federal authorization and funding of K-12 green school demonstration projects throughout the country as well as commit additional research funding to evaluate, understand and enhance the environmental economic and health benefits of green schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, Environmental Education Funding greatly assists cities expand the scope of services to the community by addressing environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, many cities, such as the City of Laredo, using these funds, have initiated an extensive environmental education campaign, aimed at the youth in our community, with an emphasis on water quality protection; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the program are to bring awareness of non-point source pollution and its effects on water quality to provide pre-school educators with free environmental education materials and available web-sites with easily downloadable material, and to form a bridge of communication and cooperation between environmental professionals and pre-school educators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors finds that there is a critical need for educating the next generation in environmental awareness and that full and dedicated funding sources for such environmental education outreach be created.

IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL WATER

WHEREAS, the United States' municipal water systems are among the finest in the world; and

WHEREAS, high quality, safe drinking water is already available at most public locations; and

WHEREAS, mayors are responsible for delivering safe and affordable water to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, local governments invest approximately \$43 billion a year for pure drinking water and treating wastewater; and

WHEREAS, US consumers spend more than \$11 billion a year on bottled water; and

WHEREAS, bottled water costs more than an equivalent volume of gasoline, equivalent to 1,000 to 10,000 times more than tap water; and

WHEREAS, more than a quarter of bottled water is sourced from municipal tap water; and

WHEREAS, bottled water must travel many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of massive amounts of fossil fuels, releasing CO₂ and other pollution into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, plastic water bottles are one of the fastest growing sources of municipal waste; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S. the plastic bottles produced for water require 1.5 million barrels of oil per year, enough to generate electricity for 250,000 homes or fuel 100,000 cars for a year; and

WHEREAS, we applaud The US Conference of Mayors for its National City Water Taste Test, which recognizes all of the great work municipal water systems do for its residents on a daily basis, year after year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The US Conference of Mayors encourage a compilation of information regarding the importance of municipal water and the impact of bottled water on municipal waste.

**INCREASING FEDERAL ROLE IN THE ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND
FINANCING OF CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, every U.S. city plays a vital role in our nation's economy, serving as centers of transportation, technology, and education for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. will not experience a first-class economy without a first-class infrastructure and the critical role that cities play in the national economy suggests that local infrastructure needs should be a national issue of priority; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 Urban Mobility Report, gridlock, decaying roads and bridges, and deteriorating transportation systems are costing the U.S. economy billions in lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in infrastructure, as a percentage of federal spending, continues to decline creating a substantial funding void for major infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies continue to hand down mandates related to the development, operation, and maintenance of major infrastructure projects to state and local governments but fail to provide the funding necessary to achieve these mandates; and

WHEREAS, the nation's infrastructure was graded by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the average grade was "D," or poor, for all infrastructure including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, security, solid waste, transit, levees, and wastewater; and

WHEREAS, estimates to simply *maintain* the current condition of our public infrastructure exceeds existing revenue streams at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in the last decade at the federal, state and local level to better manage our public infrastructure, this progress has generally been in the form of sporadic, stop-gap efforts and is not reflective of the broader, large-scale investment needed

for operations, maintenance, and improvement of our public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy and the quality of life for many Americans rests on this nation's network of critical infrastructure, and to allow our major public infrastructure to deteriorate is to allow our economy to fail and to invite a national crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to immediately address the country's infrastructure financing gap through short-term measures such as expanding the use of flexible tolling provisions and extending to all infrastructure projects those federal policy options that enable public-private partnerships and stimulate greater investment by the private sector, such as Private Activity Bonds, as well as longer-term strategies for the future such as the development of a more progressive alternative transportation funding system like Mileage/Weight Based Revenue systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to make our nation's critical infrastructure a top funding priority so as to ensure that all infrastructure of regional and national significance (including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, libraries, security, solid waste, transit, and wastewater) receives adequate federal funding, as a supplement to state and local funds, for ongoing maintenance and continued improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress recognize the critical role cities play in the national economy by enacting legislation that will both reverse the decline in the federal share of infrastructure financing and require full federal funding of federally-imposed mandates on state and local infrastructure projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation that will require federal agencies to systematically report and update critical infrastructure needs so that decision-makers at all levels of government can prepare to respond

to immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure demands and strategically plan for the requisite funding of those projects and future financing needs.

SUPPORTING WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION

WHEREAS, cities nationwide are seeking to restore and reconnect with their waterfronts, which have often been neglected, degraded, and underutilized; and

WHEREAS, local waterfront revitalization projects have the potential to create significant public benefits, including environmental cleanup, job creation, increased tourism, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, cities recognize that there is environmental, economic and other value in revitalizing waterfronts, and cities need the federal government as a partner in their revitalization efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the American Waterfront Revitalization Coalition's goals of increasing federal brownfields funding, restoring funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund's stateside program including the inland lake and waterway restoration programs, improving federal investment in infrastructure development, enhancing the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in waterfront revitalization, and encouraging enactment of Water Resources Development Act legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the federal government to collaborate with cities to pursue these important waterfront revitalization initiatives.

ENDORISING THE U.S. MAYORS FEDERAL CLIMATE POLICY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, as evidenced by recent reports by the International Panel on Climate Change, the scientific consensus is increasingly clear that climate disruption is happening, that it is human-induced, and that we need strong, immediate and sustained action to avert the most severe environmental, health and economic impacts on our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, cities must -- and do -- play a critical role in the fight against global warming, both as laboratories for climate solutions and as first responders to climate impacts;

WHEREAS, more than 500 mayors representing more than 65 million people across the country already have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to take local action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their communities, and to support stronger federal policy and action, as well; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has established a Mayors' Climate Protection Task Force and a Climate Protection Center to increase and support participation in the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, many other public and private institutions are taking similar action, through efforts such as the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and the Cool Counties Initiative; and

WHEREAS, many states and cities are taking strong, collaborative action to reduce climate pollution through programs such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (in which 11 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states are participating) and the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative (in which six western states are participating);

WHEREAS, the US Climate Action Partnership, whose members include Alcoa, BP America, Duke Energy, General Electric and Lehman Brothers, along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, environmental Defense and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, has called on Congress to specify a target aimed at reducing emissions by 60 percent to 80 percent from current levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of economic studies, such as the 2007 Stern Report by British economist Sir Nicholas Stern, suggest that the costs of climate disruption to the global economy are likely to far exceed the costs of taking action to reduce the emissions that cause the problem;

WHEREAS, a Military Advisory Board of 11 retired admirals and generals released a study called "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change," which found climate change to be a "threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world," creating breeding grounds for extremism and terrorism and found that climate change raised tensions even in stable regions and presented a serious national security threat that could affect Americans at home and impact US military operations; and

WHEREAS, while these and similar efforts make a difference and must continue, stronger federal policy and action is urgently necessary to avoid more severe environmental and economic impacts in our communities and nation, and to prepare for and respond to climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, to help guide federal policy and action, more than a dozen mayors around the nation developed a US Mayors' Federal Climate Policy Framework, which reads:

The U.S. Mayors' Federal Climate Policy Framework

Global climate disruption poses significant and urgent challenges to America's cities, ranging from increased strain on our water supply and storm water management systems to more frequent and dangerous weather events, and heat waves. At the same time, the transition to more climate-friendly technologies and development practices presents exciting economic opportunities for our communities -- and for the nation as-a-whole -- ranging from cost-savings for our families and businesses to new prospects for our companies and entrepreneurs.

Meeting these challenges, and seizing these opportunities, is a shared responsibility -- a partnership. Success will require an unprecedented collaboration among all levels of government, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors -- in the U.S. and around the world.

We mayors are striving to do our part. We have signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging not only to support strong state and federal climate protection

policies, but to take direct action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our own communities. And we are taking action. We are implementing climate-friendly land-use policies and investing in public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. We are aggressively promoting energy and water conservation and recycling. We are committing to climate-friendly building, fleet management and purchasing practices, in our governments and in our communities. We are educating and engaging our residents and our businesses. And much more.

We need support from the federal government, in the form of a strong federal regulatory and policy framework, substantial research and development on climate-friendly technologies, and funding for cities striving both to reduce emissions and to manage the impacts of climate disruption on our infrastructure and communities. We call upon the 110th Congress and the Executive Branch of the federal government to partner with us to meet the global warming challenge, and to fully capitalize on the enormous opportunities inherent in the transition to a clean-energy, low-carbon economy. We ask you to make the issue one of your top priorities. Specifically, we call for action in these five areas:

a. National reduction target and program

We need a national target for greenhouse gas emissions reductions that will protect our communities from dangerous climate disruption: 80% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. In addition, we need a market-based system that will help drive innovation and economic development in our communities. We support a national program that:

- achieves the target of 80% reductions by 2050;
- covers multiple sectors of the economy;
- includes flexibility mechanisms to foster creative approaches, allow for the least-cost means of achieving the cap, and guard against spikes in the price of carbon;
- recognizes that different regions of the country will be affected differently from the design of a cap and trade system; and
- rewards energy efficiency, renewable energy, innovative energy technologies (including research and development), and early-actors.

b. Climate-Friendly Transportation and Land Use Policies

We need federal transportation and land-use policies that will reduce air pollution and climate disruption in and around our cities; improve the health of those who live, work and play in our communities; and provide affordable mobility for our residents and businesses. We support climate-friendly transportation and land-use policies that:

- Promote compact, transit-, bicycle-, and pedestrian-friendly urban communities;
- Significantly increase average fuel efficiency of the entire U.S. fleet in the near-term;
- Aggressively support the development and use of renewable bio-based vehicle fuels and electric vehicles such as plug-in hybrids;
- Substantially reduce the number of miles that the U.S. fleet drives while making mobility more affordable, easier and more accessible;
- Increase public transit, bicycling and walking opportunities;
- Significantly increase the overall efficiency of the entire U.S. transportation system—including airplanes, boats, railroad, buses, and trucks—for both people and goods.

c. Climate-Friendly Energy Policies

We need federal energy policies that will reduce air pollution and climate disruption in and around our cities, save our residents and businesses money by lowering energy costs, bolster local economic development by creating jobs and new business opportunities in our communities, and increase the reliability and safety of our energy infrastructure. We support climate-friendly energy policies and investments that:

- Fund and implement widespread efficiency and conservation efforts in all sectors and make resources available to municipalities to carry out local conservation programs;
- Aggressively promote energy-efficient technologies and significantly increase the energy efficiency of the built environment; and
- Substantially increase the production of renewable energy.

d. Climate-Friendly Federal Government Facilities & Operations

We mayors have found leadership-by-example on climate protection to be a very powerful tool, not only for reducing climate pollution in our cities, but also for saving money, accelerating local markets for climate-friendly products and services, and inspiring others to

reduce emissions. The federal government must lead by example as well. We support policies and programs such as the following:

Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of the Federal government's operations and facilities, set a reduction target, and track and report periodically on progress;
Develop a federal procurement policy to ensure that all products purchased are as climate-friendly as possible;
Transition federal vehicle fleets to highly fuel efficient and/or alternative fuel vehicles;
Require that all new or remodeled federal buildings, including all building projects that receive federal funding, meet the American Institute of Architects' "2030 Challenge."

e. Managing climate impacts on local communities

While we must remain vigilant in our efforts to reduce global warming pollution, we also must prepare for the impacts of climate disruption that may occur -- and in some cases already are occurring -- in our cities. We need federal policies and funding that will enable local communities to identify their vulnerabilities in the face of the climate disruption, and that will support local efforts to minimize, prepare for and adapt to these impacts. Examples include:

Fund research that will identify in greater detail the most likely local effects of climate change;
Require that all long-range federal planning and projects--including planning for emergency response systems, transportation infrastructure, national security and so on--take climate change into full consideration; and
Provide funding for efforts of local communities to adapt major infrastructure (such as water, sewer, transportation, and electricity) for climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 as the necessary and appropriate goal for our nation -- and the long-term target toward which our individual communities also should strive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference endorses the US Mayors' Federal Climate Policy Framework, and urges the U.S. Congress and the federal government to incorporate this Framework into the development of all federal policies and programs on climate protection.

Project Cost: Unknown

**RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS
TRAGEDY IN SUDAN**

WHEREAS, a conflict between rebel forces in the Darfur region of Sudan and forces of the Sudanese government (along with allied Janjaweed militias) has resulted in attacks by air and ground forces on tens of thousands of innocent people and undefended villages throughout the Darfur region; and

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 deaths in the region can be attributed to violence, disease, and malnutrition because of the conflict. Over two million five hundred thousand people have been forced from their homes by the Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militias, approximately 300,000 of them having sought refugee protection in neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, Janjaweed militias have recently launched successful attacks on refugees and Chadian civilians within Chad, and have likewise launched attacks on civilians in Darfur with direct military support from the Sudanese government;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State estimates that at least 500 Sudanese villages have been systematically attacked and destroyed, and another 700 Sudanese villages have been damaged; and

WHEREAS, rape has been, and is being utilized as an instrument of war for the sake of humiliation, punishment, and breaking the will of the people who have remained on their lands; and

WHEREAS, a more precise assessment of the scope of the killing, ethnic cleansing, and other human rights atrocities (including rapes and torture) has been made impossible because of obstructions to access imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government has been unwilling to effectively address the human rights crisis in Darfur and has been supplying arms to the allied Janjaweed militias perpetrating violence against African Muslims in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch noted in April 2006 that "fighting between the Sudanese government and Darfur rebel movements has escalated in the past six months, displacing

tens of thousands of people, many of whom had already fled attacks in 2003-2006," and that "civilians continue to be targeted for killings, rape, displacement and looting, mainly by government-backed Janjaweed militias in Darfur"; and

WHEREAS, significant incidents of violence continue to be perpetrated against people in the Darfur region of Sudan via aerial attacks conducted by Sudanese government warplanes falsely and deceptively bearing the markings of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch estimates that almost four million people are affected by the conflict in the Darfur region. Humanitarian aid agencies and the United Nations estimate that tens of thousands of civilians are unable to receive aid, including up to 40% of West Darfur, due to impediments to the delivery of aid imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, because of the impediments to access by and acts of violence, mayhem and intimidation directed toward representatives of international humanitarian organizations, hundreds of thousands of displaced Sudanese are in jeopardy of starvation and illness;

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in March 2005 - over two years ago - said of the situation, "The international community has to act on Darfur. It has to act with great speed. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a moral crisis, and it is a crisis that is extraordinary in its scope and in its potential for even greater damage to those populations," and then said on September 27, 2006 that "the government of Sudan must immediately and unconditionally accept a U.N. peacekeeping force into Darfur," and that "the time for stalling has passed;" and

WHEREAS, the United States and much of the international community turned a blind eye to the murders, rapes and torture of millions of people, as well as the ethnic cleansing and other massive human rights abuses during the Holocaust, and in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Srebrenica and Southern Sudan; and

WHEREAS, there has been general agreement that "Never Again" will we allow such genocides and atrocities to humanity to occur; and

WHEREAS, effective measures can be taken by the United States, by the United Nations, and the international community to end many of the tragic human rights abuses occurring in Sudan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, for the fourth consecutive year, strongly urges the U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration, in collaboration with the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and NATO to:

- A. initiate steps towards the creation of a NATO enforced no-fly zone over the Darfur region, putting an end to aerial attacks;
- B. ensure that the U.S. and its allies pay their fair and equitable share of the expenses associated with the deployment and maintenance of the current African Union peacekeeping force and the expected United Nations/African Union hybrid mission following the eventual transition from the former to the latter, until such time as lasting peace and order is restored in the Darfur region;
- C. pass federal legislation ensuring the legality of state and city legislation which divests state and city pension funds and other similarly administrated fiduciaries of holdings of companies determined to be doing harmful business with the government of Sudan or with entities with which the government of Sudan has a pecuniary interest until such time as lasting peace and order is restored to the Darfur region;
- D. cooperate fully with pursue the prosecution by the International Criminal Court of members of the Sudanese regime or other individuals who have contributed to, fostered or furthered the genocide in Darfur or have engaged in other crimes against humanity;
- E. take immediate measures to compel the Sudanese government to allow and guarantee the free movement of human rights investigators and humanitarian workers in the Darfur region;
- F. take immediate measures to compel the Sudanese government to cease supplying the allied Janjaweed militias with arms;

G. take immediate measures to compel the Sudanese government to fully and unconditionally agree to the deployment of the United Nations mission authorized in UN Security Council resolution 1706 and of at least 22,500 international peacekeepers to protect civilians and help create the stability necessary for the successful continuation of the peace process;

**CALLING ON ALL NATIONS AND ALL WORLD POWERS TO PROHIBIT THE USE
OF ANY WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION AGAINST CITIES AND OTHER
CIVILIAN TARGETS AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF
PEACE**

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted Resolution Number 62 at their national conference on June 5, 2006, calling upon select nations to discontinue the practice of targeting cities in the United States for nuclear attack; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the United States Conference of Mayors to seek the protection of cities and citizens in the United States and throughout the world from the dangers arising from the presence of weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of countries throughout the world have nuclear capabilities, and a growing number of countries are actively working to obtain such capability; and

WHEREAS, there is a corresponding increase in the number of countries throughout the world that currently possess, or are working to develop, other types of weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands determined in 1996 that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is unlawful under International Humanitarian Law; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion on nuclear weapons ten years ago in which it concluded that all nations are under an obligation "to pursue negotiations in good faith and bring to a conclusion measures leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors stated on June 28, 2004, "weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world," and further called for the commencement of "negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon-related materials"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the United States Conference of Mayors fully supports the elimination of nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare throughout the world, and supports the efforts of all nations working to embrace the concept of peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the United States Conference of Mayors stand united in opposition to the initiation of nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare under any circumstances and regardless of the target; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the United States Conference of Mayors shall remain engaged in this matter until our cities and citizens, and the cities and citizens located throughout the world, are no longer under the threat of nuclear, biological, and chemical devastation.

**OPPOSING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION'S ORDER REGARDING
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND CABLE FRANCHISING**

WHEREAS, wireline cable companies use public property such as rights-of-way, poles, and conduits in providing cable services to their customers; and

WHEREAS, permission to use public property is normally granted under a cable franchise agreement that contains provisions and conditions of use by such wireline cable providers; and

WHEREAS, cable franchise agreements allow municipal governments or states to determine the appropriate needs of their communities so as to ensure franchises are tailored to meet the needs and interests of socio-economically diverse residents; and

WHEREAS, significant public benefits have been realized from these agreements, including public, educational and government (PEG) access channels, institutional networks (I-Net), in-kind contributions, and access in historically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, wireline cable companies have been operating under franchise agreements for more than 50 years, including the last 23 years pursuant to the 1984 Cable Act, and these agreements have resulted in cable operator growth while addressing the needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order (the "Franchising Order") and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), FCC 06-180, adopted on December 20, 2006, and released on March 5, 2007, detailed new rules and policies intended to "facilitate and expedite entry of new cable competitors into the market for delivery of video programming, and accelerate broadband deployment"; and

WHEREAS, the Franchising Order concluded that certain practices of local government franchising "constitute an unreasonable barrier to entry" for new cable providers; and

WHEREAS, the Franchising Order preempts local franchising authority and changes the normal franchise process with respect to new applicants, related to negotiation time limits and granting of default "interim" franchises; build-out requirements; treatment of franchise fees, application fees, PEG and I-Net support; and exemptions for non-cable services and mixed-use facilities; and creates uncertainty as to the scope of build-out obligations that may be imposed on providers of competitive cable services; and

WHEREAS, the FCC signaled its intentions in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to apply the Franchising Order to incumbent cable operators when engaging in franchise renewals; and

WHEREAS, these changes undermine the ability of local governments to negotiate franchises that are in the best interest of their residents and jeopardize the preservation of the benefits already achieved; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, joined by the Alliance for Community Media, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and the Alliance for Communications Democracy, has filed a Petition for Review challenging the statutory authority of the FCC Franchising Order, and

WHEREAS, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has been chosen to hear this appeal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors reaffirms the importance of the local franchising process in ensuring that the needs and interests of local communities are met, and that there is a fair and equitable environment for the provision of cable services, both to the benefit of cable providers and the local community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors reiterates its opposition to administrative actions by the FCC to preempt and restrict local governments from negotiating franchise agreements or renewals in an effort to protect the best interests of their constituents, and considers such actions by the FCC to exceed its statutory authority and be an abuse of discretion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to restrict the FCC from using appropriated funds to implement the Franchising Order, and to otherwise ensure that any federal changes to local franchising authority are the result of deliberation and action through the legislative process.

**PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ADDRESS CAPACITY NEEDS IN
THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM THROUGH FAA REAUTHORIZATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has identified at least seven metropolitan areas and 18 hub airports that need additional air capacity improvements to meet anticipated demand by 2015, and 15 metropolitan areas and 27 hub airports by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress in 1990, in order to meet the growing demand for airport capacity, authorized commercial service airport sponsors to impose a user fee of up to \$3 per flight of each paying passenger, called a "Passenger Facility Charge" (PFC); and

WHEREAS, PFC revenue has served as a major source of funding for the construction of runways, taxiways, terminals and gates, as well as for debt service, and the Secretary of Transportation has praised the PFC program as "very successful at providing a stable source of revenue to fund capital development projects"; and

WHEREAS, by using PFCs to fund major airside and landside capacity improvements, airports have kept these costs out of the rates and charges airport impose on airlines; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the Congress increased the maximum PFC to \$4.50, but the rise in construction costs and inflation have eroded the value of PFCs, so that a \$4.50 PFC in 2000 is now worth only \$2.86; and

WHEREAS, the Congress will consider whether to increase the PFC cap in legislation to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration programs that are set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Administration's FAA reauthorization proposal recognizes the importance of the PFC program to our national air transportation system and the need to increase the PFC to meet the growing airport capacity needs; and

WHEREAS, in proposing an increase in the PFC cap to \$6.00, the Administration's proposal did not take into account the rise in construction costs or the effect of inflation; and

WHEREAS, an increase to \$7.20 is needed simply to restore the buying power of the PFC increase enacted in 2000; and

WHEREAS, under the Administration's proposal, large and medium hub airports would no longer be eligible for apportionment funding under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), because the

Administration believes these airports can obtain adequate funding through the imposition of PFCs; and

WHEREAS, large and medium hub airports are willing to forego future AIP apportionment funding so long as the PFC cap is increased to \$7.50, which would offset the expected impact of inflation and the further increase in construction costs over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, enacting a \$7.50 PFC cap while removing large and medium hub airports from AIP apportionment eligibility would benefit all airports in the national air transportation system, because the larger airports would rely even more heavily on PFC funding, while smaller airports would benefit by receiving a greater portion of AIP funds than under current law; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, the Airports Council International-North America, the American Association of Airport Executives, the Associated General Contractors, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and the American Association of Civil Engineers have endorsed an increase in the PFC cap; and

WHEREAS, it also is important to reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program at a level that will meet the needs of both large and small airports; and

WHEREAS, to account for the rise in construction costs and the impact of inflation, AIP funding should be increased over the current authorized level of \$3.7 billion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to enact in FAA reauthorization legislation an increase in the PFC cap and an increase in the authorized level of AIP funding to meet the rise in construction costs, the impact of inflation, and the demand for airport capacity growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to raise the maximum PFC cap to \$7.50 per flight, to index this increase to inflation, and to authorize at least \$3.8 billion in AIP funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter.

STREETCARS, TROLLEYS AND AMERICAN CITIES

WHEREAS, The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) enacted several changes to the New Starts program, including establishing the Small Starts program; and

WHEREAS, this Small Starts program reflected a new interest in American Cities to reintroduce streetcars and trolley's as a way in which to promote neighborhood economic development and mobility; and

WHEREAS, in those cities in which streetcars and trolleys have recently returned the evidence has shown that housing availability, commercial and retail opportunities and strengthened urban centers all follow; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU required economic development and urban development factors to be taken into consideration in the development of regulations under the Small Starts program which FTA failed to adequately do, which was the subject of a recent oversight hearing by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Highways and Transit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that the Federal Transit Administration move expeditiously to implement the Small Starts program in an effective manner consistent with the provisions of SAFETEA-LU; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FTA develop a Small Starts project evaluation and review process that gives equal weight to cost effectiveness, public transit supportive land use and the effect of a project on economic development.

SUPPORT OF CHANGES TO FTA CHARTER SERVICE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, public transportation moves nearly 30 million people a day in the United States and transit ridership has increased 25 percent since 1995, from 7.7 billion riders to 10 billion riders annually; and

WHEREAS, public transit is a key part of the solution to energy independence and climate change and should be utilized to the maximum extent possible;

WHEREAS, public transportation agencies can address specific community needs that are often currently unmet by private transit providers, including provision of accessible equipment, or equipment that supports community air quality requirements; and

WHEREAS, since 1987, when the current federal charter bus regulations were issued, public transportation agencies have been largely unable to provide community-based transportation to groups such as local governments, and nonprofit groups such as boys and girls clubs, the Kiwanis Club, local chambers of commerce, firefighters, and local charities; and

WHEREAS, Congress directed the Federal Transit Administration in the 2005 SAFETEA-LU to update the 1987 charter regulation and consider means by which public agencies might provide community-based services; and

WHEREAS, FTA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in February 2007 that goes beyond the intent of Congress in SAFETEA-LU by redefining public transportation, thereby making it impossible for cities to use their local transit agencies for many community events such as shuttles to festivals; and

WHEREAS, cities are increasingly called upon to provide substantial local funding to support transit operations, yet cannot use the public transit agency to respond to basic community transit services; and

WHEREAS, one dollar of federal funding used to purchase a public agency vehicle, or even to fund a maintenance facility used to maintain said vehicle renders that vehicle completely subject to the charter regulation; and

WHEREAS, private transportation providers have become eligible for federal funding in certain circumstances yet remain exempt from charter bus regulations which are supposed to prohibit federal funding from being used for charter; and

WHEREAS, federally-funded public transportation agencies and private over-the-road carriers should cooperate to provide community-based transportation to events, organizations and individuals for a commercially reasonable price; and

WHEREAS, any proposal to penalize public transportation agencies without corresponding clarifications to the charter service regulations would undermine the ability of cities to receive community-based transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conferences of Mayors supports changes to the charter service regulations that would allow transit agencies to provide transportation service to local governments and social service agencies in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such charter regulations permit public transportation agencies to provide transportation for community events, where such service would serve a public interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such charter regulation permit public transportation agencies to provide community-based transportation to schools, universities, and other community institutions where such service would serve a public interest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public transportation agencies shall not be punished by charter regulations without clear standards defining "charter service" and appropriate due process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to clarify the charter service regulations to allow public transportation agencies to provide community-based service directly to local governments and social service agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FTA clarify the definition of charter, recognizing that moving large numbers of people attending a public event is public transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that vehicles acquired or maintained with any amount of federal funds be treated the same, whether privately or publicly owned; and that a de minimus level of federal funding used to acquire or maintain a vehicle, that would not trigger application of the charter regulation be identified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration be given to the concerns of the largest public transit agencies regarding their capacity to provide such service.

**INCREASING FEDERAL ROLE IN THE ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND
FINANCING OF CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, every U.S. city plays a vital role in our nation's economy, serving as centers of transportation, technology, and education for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. will not experience a first-class economy without a first-class infrastructure and the critical role that cities play in the national economy suggests that local infrastructure needs should be a national issue of priority; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 Urban Mobility Report, gridlock, decaying roads and bridges, and deteriorating transportation systems are costing the U.S. economy billions in lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in infrastructure, as a percentage of federal spending, continues to decline creating a substantial funding void for major infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies continue to hand down mandates related to the development, operation, and maintenance of major infrastructure projects to state and local governments but fail to provide the funding necessary to achieve these mandates; and

WHEREAS, the nation's infrastructure was graded by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the average grade was "D," or poor, for all infrastructure including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, security, solid waste, transit, and wastewater; and

WHEREAS, estimates to simply *maintain* the current condition of our public infrastructure exceeds existing revenue streams at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in the last decade at the federal, state and local level to better manage our public infrastructure, this progress has generally been in the form of sporadic, stop-gap efforts and is not reflective of the broader, large-scale investment needed for operations, maintenance, and improvement of our public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy and the quality of life for many Americans rests on this nation's network of critical infrastructure, and to allow our major public infrastructure to deteriorate is to allow our economy to fail and to invite a national crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to immediately address the country's infrastructure financing gap through short-term measures such as expanding the use of flexible tolling provisions and extending to all infrastructure projects those federal policy options that enable public-private partnerships and stimulate greater investment by the private sector, such as Private Activity Bonds, as well as longer-term strategies for the future such as the development of a more progressive alternative transportation funding system like Mileage/Weight Based Revenue systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to make our nation's critical infrastructure a top funding priority so as to ensure that all infrastructure of regional and national significance (including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, libraries, security, solid waste, transit, levees, and wastewater) receives adequate federal funding, as a supplement to state and local funds, for ongoing maintenance and continued improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress recognize the critical role cities play in the national economy by enacting legislation that will both reverse the decline in the federal share of infrastructure financing and require full federal funding of federally-imposed mandates on state and local infrastructure projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation that will require federal agencies to systematically report and update critical infrastructure needs so that decision-makers at all levels of government can prepare to respond to immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure demands and strategically plan for the requisite funding of those projects and future financing needs.

**A NATIONAL INTERCITY RAIL POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

WHEREAS, congested metropolitan highways, limited options for expanding airport capacity, continued financial deterioration of the airlines, and rising fuel prices are urgent reminders of the transportation infrastructure crisis that is jeopardizing America's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, September 11, 2001 highlighted that our nation needs viable alternatives to air travel, and it is clear that intercity and long distance passenger rail service is that alternative; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail infrastructure has been underfunded for far too long by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in the context of increasingly complex, costly and limited alternatives to an impending transportation system crisis, intercity passenger rail provides the opportunity to add capacity to the nation's congested aviation and highway transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation option thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and helping reduce America's dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak intercity passenger rail service provides cities large and small with direct economic, social and homeland security interest and is a source of civic pride; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak, America's national passenger railroad, served a record-setting 25 million passengers last year; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is the largest commuter operator in the nation, transporting more than 60 million commuters per year directly and an additional 348 million riders yearly indirectly through agreements and/or shared operations; and

WHEREAS, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major transportation link to the rest of the country and is especially important with discontinuance of bus service throughout much of the rural United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to stabilize Amtrak operations, infrastructure, and financials by appropriating Amtrak's FY08 grant request of \$1.55 billion while federal policy-

makers debate the immediate and long-term authorization for Amtrak;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to establish a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, comparable to the highway and aviation trust funds, to provide Amtrak, states and local governments with a reliable source of capital and operating support for intercity passenger rail corridors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to enact tax incentives and pursue other measures to stimulate increased private sector participation to improve crossings, rail stations, and rail infrastructure; acquire rolling stock; offer commuter benefits and transit-oriented development in support of intercity passenger rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to dedicate a portion of any proceeds from the federal issuance of bonds to fund transportation spending to an intercity passenger rail trust fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with the establishment of a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, The United States Conference of Mayors recommends to the Administration and Congress that a federal match program for intercity passenger rail corridor operations and capital be comparable to other modes of transportation, generally at 80% federal and 20% state funded, perhaps richer federal match under certain circumstances, to stimulate development where it is most needed, including encouraging intercity passenger rail-airport-transit connections and rail oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the long distance, including transcontinental passenger trains, form the basis for, and connections to, emerging federal-state supported corridors and provide an important transportation link for many rural communities and regions across the country; therefore, it is the recommendation of The United States Conference of Mayors to the Administration and Congress that the federal government maintain full responsibility for operating and capital; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to delay enactment of long distance performance evaluations or benchmarks until the long distance infrastructure is brought into a state of good condition

and numerous freight rail issues, including choke points, have been identified and solved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with the establishment of a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, The United States Conference of Mayors recommends to the Administration and Congress that a federal match program for Northeast Corridor operations and capital be comparable to other modes of transportation, generally at 80% federal and 20% state funded, perhaps richer federal match under certain circumstances, to stimulate development where it is most needed, including encouraging intercity passenger rail-airport-transit connections and rail oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to require that the composition of the Amtrak Board of Directors include a mayor of a city selected from among mayors of cities with an interest in passenger rail, especially in light of recommendations in the Administration's and Amtrak's reform proposals that states and locals share the costs of corridor and long distance passenger rail service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Homeland Security take financial and operational responsibility for securing intercity passenger rail operations and infrastructure.

**URGING SUPPORT FOR A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF THE INTERNET TAX
FREEDOM ACT**

WHEREAS, the Internet Tax Freedom Act was originally enacted in 1998 to encourage the growth of the Internet and electronic commerce by imposing a temporary moratorium on new taxes on Internet access fees and on multiple and discriminatory taxes on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, a temporary moratorium was imposed to allow the Internet, telecommunications technology and electronic commerce the opportunity to develop, mature and establish trends before considering how state and local taxes should be applied; and

WHEREAS, the original law also provided protections for state and local governments in three critical areas: (1) it only applied to new taxes and not existing taxes on Internet access (state and local taxes on Internet access fees in existence in 1998 were protected by a grandfather clause), (2) the definition of "Internet access" excluded telecommunications services, a significant revenue source for state and local governments, and (3) the moratorium was made temporary so Congress could monitor the International electronic commerce, and make adjustments at the end of the moratorium to address rapidly developing technologies and markets; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the original law, the moratorium has been temporarily extended two times—a 3-year simple extension was approved in 2000, and in 2004 legislation was introduced to make the law permanent and eliminate the grandfather clause; and

WHEREAS, the Conference and other state and local groups who opposed a permanent extension were successful in convincing Congress to pass another 3-year temporary extension, to retain the grandfather clause and include language clarifying that the moratorium does not apply to telephone services provided over the Internet or Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services; and

WHEREAS, the current legislation is scheduled to expire on November 1, 2007 and once again, bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to make the moratorium permanent and eliminate the grandfather clause and other protections for state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the current definition, which imposes a moratorium on taxes on Internet access, also poses a problem in that the way it is worded implies that current taxable services that are bundled with Internet access must be exempt from state and local taxes since the definition states that Internet access "may also include

access to proprietary content, information, and other services as part of a package of services offered to users;" and

WHEREAS, during the past decade, the world has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the field of telecommunications with many telecommunications companies migrating to the Internet and offering customer services that state and local governments have traditionally taxed such as music, movies, games, newspapers, books, VOIP, Internet-Protocol Television (IPTV), all of which could be bundled with Internet access; and

WHEREAS, the rapid pace of innovation in the Internet and telecommunications industries makes it difficult to define these complex and ever-changing services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thomas Carper (DE) and Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) have introduced a bipartisan alternative proposal on behalf of the state and local governments that would temporarily extend the ITFA for 4-years, retain the grandfather protections, and clarify that the definition of Internet access to make it clear that Internet access does not include taxable services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges all members of Congress to cosponsor and support the enactment of the Carper-Alexander 4-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act in the Senate and similar legislation in the House; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges all members of Congress to oppose legislation that would make the existing moratorium on Internet access fees permanent as well as eliminate the grandfather clause and other protections for state and local governments.

**REPEALING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITHHOLDING PROVISIONS (SECTION 511) IN
THE TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005**

WHEREAS, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222) was signed into law on May 17, 2006, including a provision (Section 511) requiring municipal governments that expend more than \$100 million in outside contracts to withhold three percent from all payments for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the cost of implementation and compliance for governments has been estimated at \$62 million per year by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO); and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) of the United States Congress has determined that these costs exceed the threshold established under the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*; and

WHEREAS, enforcing compliance with the federal tax code is a fundamental responsibility of the federal government and function of the Internal Revenue Service, not of municipalities, and current laws and regulations provide sufficient authority for the federal government to collect these taxes from these contractors, and

WHEREAS, the \$100 million expenditure threshold is likely to affect a far greater number of municipal governments than originally calculated, and will cause many city and county governments to cross above and below the threshold in various years; and

WHEREAS, costs that companies incur from compliance with the withholding provision likely will be passed through to government customers in the form of higher contractor bids; and

WHEREAS, many municipal governments have been transitioning to commercial purchasing for goods and services, capturing notable price reductions and cost savings, and the withholding requirement introduces significant alterations to this system likely to place government purchasers at a disadvantage to their private sector counterparts; and

WHEREAS, vagaries in the legislation regarding exempt expenditures have not been clarified, which leaves correct withholding amounts difficult to implement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to immediately repeal the withholding requirements for governments under the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Treasury to take the adverse impacts of this legislation into account when establishing rules and guidelines, if the Congress does not repeal this provision prior to implementation.

FUNDING THE 2010 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of the Census is preparing to conduct the 2010 census to update census data used to determine, among other things, each state's Congressional representation as well as the amount of federal funds each state and local community will receive from various federal programs; and

WHEREAS, in previous census counts including 1980, 1990 and 2000, mayors across the nation have expressed concerns that high levels of low-income individuals have been undercounted and as a result cities have missed out on millions of dollars in federal funds for federal programs, including those serving low-income families; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for the 2010 census, the United States Census Bureau has reengineered the decennial census with three goals in mind: (1) to reduce operational risk, (2) improve the accuracy and relevance of data, (3) and contain the overall cost of the census; and

WHEREAS, to better ensure a more accurate count in 2010, the Census Bureau must receive the resources it needs to plan and conduct an accurate count of all individuals residing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress approved the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 which will enable the Census Bureau to continue its long term planning for the 2010 census, to continue development of Global Positioning System (GPS)-equipped handheld computers for use in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal and the 2010 census, as well as full implementation of the American Community Survey; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has requested an increase in funds for fiscal year 2008 to ramp up efforts in preparation for the 2010 census and allow the Census Bureau to continue planning, testing, and developing activities, including the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal; conducting the American Community Survey to replace the traditional long form; and improving the accuracy of map feature locations, using GPS coordinates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to support adequate funding of the 2010 census so that long-term planning can begin now; the 2010 census can be designed to more accurately identify and count all segments of the city's population, including low-income individuals; and federal funds supporting low-income populations can be more accurately allocated among states and local communities.

REAUTHORIZING THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Treasury's New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program has provided incentives for the private financing of a broad range of local development activities in economically distressed urban and rural communities, including charter schools, health care facilities, business loans and equity investments, for-sale affordable housing, retail centers and other commercial and mixed-use real estate projects; and

WHEREAS, the NMTC program has made more than 200 tax credit allocation awards to Community Development Entities (CDE), which thus far have raised \$7.7 billion in private equity investment for low-income communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report in January of 2007 concluding that most NMTC investments would not have occurred in the absence of the credit, and that corporate and individual investors increased their investments in low-income communities due to the credit, and

WHEREAS, in the first three years of implementation, use of the NMTC helped to create or retain 72,000 construction jobs and 20,000 full-time equivalent jobs, and generated financing for the construction or rehabilitation of over 43 million square feet of real estate in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the NMTC has stimulated loans and equity investments in a full range of businesses within urban and rural economically distressed communities, including small technology firms, manufacturers, start-ups, neighborhood retail stores, and inner-city shopping centers, creating local jobs and building a tax base in poor communities; and

WHEREAS, CDEs are successfully targeting investments to areas with poverty and unemployment rates above what is required by law; and

WHEREAS, the NMTC program is set to expire at the end of 2007, and failure to reauthorize would disrupt the availability of credits, cost opportunities for hundreds of communities to materially improve the lives of their residents, reduce investor confidence, and hinder implementation by the community development entities and financial institutions that have made considerable investments to deploy the NMTC program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to enact a long-term reauthorization of the New Markets Tax Credit program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress and the Department of Treasury to incorporate in future NMTC program allocations a special consideration for applications that involve local governments as a lead or integral partner, to provide complementary resources and help maximize the benefits derived by low-income residents from revitalization efforts in their targeted communities.

DOLLAR WISE

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign has set aside the week of September 24-29, 2007, for cities to celebrate Dollar Wise Week 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Dollar Wise Advisory Board has selected "Savings for Kids and Families" as the theme for Dollar Wise Week 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign invites all mayors and cities across the country to join in celebrating Dollar Wise Week 2007 by working with local financial institutions and community organizations to encourage parents and families to help their children open savings accounts; and

WHEREAS, savings form an essential part of a solid financial foundation for the future and are an important aspect of wise personal financial management, allowing the nation's citizens to prepare for college education, homeownership, retirement, and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the nation's savings rate dipped into the negative in both 2005 and 2006, the first time since the Great Depression of the 1930s that Americans as a whole failed to save at least a portion of their money; and

WHEREAS, to promote business investment in America's cities and to help individuals become investors in their communities, the United States Conference of Mayors organized the Council for the New American City, a coalition of mayors, private-sector organizations, and nonprofit groups working together to promote our cities as places in which to invest; and

WHEREAS, the largest and most important financial investment most American families will make in their communities is the purchase of a home; and

WHEREAS, for many Americans the greatest obstacle to homeownership is poor knowledge of personal financial management skills and mortgage opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the New American City has established the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign to invite, encourage, and help cities establish and enhance programs that assist their citizens gain the knowledge necessary to handle their personal finances responsibly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages all mayors and cities to participate in Dollar Wise Week 2007 by sponsoring and organizing events that will assist their citizens in understanding the importance of wise financial management and bring in parents and families to help children open savings accounts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors invites all of the nation's mayors to register their cities for the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign and encourage their active year-round participation therein;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nation's mayors call on the federal government of the United States, including Congress, the White House, and federal agencies, to take the steps necessary to support the enhancement and expansion of programs designed to help the nation's citizens become more financially literate and better able to support themselves and their families and contribute to the communities in which they live.

REVISING THE FEDERAL DEFINITION OF POVERTY

WHEREAS, the federal poverty threshold was originally developed in 1963-1964 using U.S. Department of Agriculture Food budgets designed for families under economic stress and data on the portion of income families spent on food alone; and

WHEREAS, while in the 1960's families spent about one-third of their income on food, today food accounts for about one-seventh of an average household's total expenditures, and about one-sixth of expenditures by households in the lowest income quintile;

WHEREAS, because there have been few changes to the formula for calculating the poverty threshold over the years, it does not take into account changes in the cost of basic necessities - particularly housing and health care - which 21st Century families must meet; and

WHEREAS, while the poverty threshold is adjusted for inflation and the number of household members, it is the same for cities and rural areas and throughout the contiguous 48 states; and

WHEREAS, because the current federal poverty line no longer represents the income that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life, it underestimates the number of individuals who are struggling to stay adequately fed, housed, employed, healthy, and educated; and

WHEREAS, an accurate calculation of the federal poverty rate is important to understanding the dimensions of the nation's economic needs; and

WHEREAS, the poverty rate is a significant factor in the allocation of funds in many federal formula grant programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to revise the formula for calculating the federal poverty line so that it better reflects the amount that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life, and that it include factors such as housing, transportation, health care, and child care, in addition to the cost of food.

SUPPORTING FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007

WHEREAS, over 65 years ago, on December 8th, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a call to Filipinos to serve militarily to protect the Philippines, then a commonwealth of the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 200,000 Filipinos answered President Roosevelt's call and joined the Commonwealth Army and Philippine Scouts to fight in World War II and were promised veteran health and pension benefits equal to that of any serviceman in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino veterans played a vital role in helping the United States succeed in winning the Pacific Theater of World War II and fought, suffered, and sacrificed side by side with American soldiers from December of 1941 until the unconditional surrender of Japan in August of 1945; and

WHEREAS, when the Philippines became independent from the United States in 1946, Congress passed Rescission Act of 1946 of the same year, which greatly reduced the veteran benefits of health care, pension, and financial compensation of military service related injuries/disabilities of Filipino veterans; and

WHEREAS, there are less than 18,000 Filipino World War II veterans living in this country currently that still wait for equality to be rightfully restored for their bravery and service to the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors support the passage of House Resolution 760, known as the Filipino Equity Act of 2007, which would restore full veteran benefits to Filipino veterans who served militarily on behalf of the United States in World War II.

IRAQ WAR

WHEREAS, the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces continue to serve in Iraq with bravery and distinction; and

WHEREAS, the current sectarian violence in Iraq continues to claim the lives of U.S. Military Personnel and Iraqi Civilians; and

WHEREAS, peace and stability can only be achieved in Iraq through the resolution of political differences within that country; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of domestic peace and order requires the active intervention and leadership of the Iraqi Government, respecting the rights of all Iraqis; and

WHEREAS, continued U.S. Military presence in Iraq is resulting in the tragic loss of American lives and wounding of American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, the continued U.S. Military presence in Iraq is reducing Federal Funds available for needed domestic investments in education, healthcare, public safety, homeland security, and more; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors completely and 110 percent supports those men and women that are defending, have defended and will defend our country,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the Administration to begin planning immediately for the swift and prudent redeployment of the US Armed Forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the accelerated training of Iraq's Armed Forces to be able to maintain stability and civil order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for future U.S. Military Aid; reconstruction funding, and other support to be tied to the achievement of verifiable goals by the Iraqi government, including ridding Iraqi security forces of militia or sectarian influence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the Administration, as part of a comprehensive plan for stability in the region, to convene an international conference

to identify strategies and methods for reducing regional interference in Iraq and increasing regional support of achieving peace and stability in Iraq; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S Conference of Mayors calls for full funding of services to the brave men and women returning after service in the United States Armed Forces, including medical, psychological, housing and other support services, and support to local governments funding such services.