

Kansas Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services
Don Jordan, Secretary

House Utilities Committee
March 11, 2008

Weatherization Assistance Program Account

Integrated Service Delivery
Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary

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Chairman Holmes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide information on Senate Bill 580. In addition to 15% of the regular annual federal low income energy assistance (LIEAP) block grant funding that is currently transferred to the weatherization program administered by the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, this bill proposes transferring 15% of any emergency LIEAP appropriation to the weatherization program.

Senate Bill 580 would provide a financial benefit to landlords and home owners for help in increasing housing energy efficiency. Transferring additional funds from LIEAP to the weatherization assistance program would address improving the heating efficiency of individual residences and have a long term positive impact on reducing energy costs.

LIEAP assistance payments address the immediate needs of low-income Kansans by helping to ensure they have the resources to meet their heating needs and address the issue of public safety. The emergency LIEAP appropriations are predicated on responding to extreme temperature situations or significant heating fuel price increases. This proposal would reduce LIEAP benefits available to low income families and individuals during these times of extreme temperatures or high fuel costs.