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LRB099 13721 MST 37683 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Housing authorities and landlords can legally
3 evict tenants if they do not pay their utilities, regardless of
4 rent payment; and

5 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Low Income Home Energy
6 Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help individuals
7 survive extreme summer and winter temperatures - it prevents
8 deaths and excessive emergency room hospitalizations and other
9 public health costs often associated with heat-related
10 illnesses; over 171,000 Illinois households rely on LIHEAP to
11 provide them with adequate levels of heating and cooling; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Rauner has issued a directive to suspend
13 the expenditure of State funds under LIHEAP; this directive is
14 dangerous and prohibited under Illinois law; the Governor's
15 actions will not save the State any money and could, in fact,
16 significantly increase preventable public health costs; and

17 WHEREAS, Without the aid of LIHEAP, many families and
18 seniors will be unable to pay their utility bills and could be
19 subject to eviction based on the legal protection for
20 landlords; and

21 WHEREAS, Further confusing the situation, LIHEAP is

1 federally funded and that funding may not be distributed by
2 Illinois State agencies without a State budget in place; and

3 WHEREAS, Cuts to LIHEAP put Illinois citizens in danger
4 during extreme weather conditions and evicting them during this
5 time puts them in further danger; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 urge housing authorities and landlords statewide not to evict
9 tenants based on an inability to pay utilities alone in light
10 of the State budget impasse and cuts to the LIHEAP program; and
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 delivered to all housing authorities throughout the State.