

R005-0203

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
20 THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE 1996 WELFARE REFORM ACT

30 WHEREAS: The Welfare Reform Act of 1996, which started Temporary  
40 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), is to be reauthorized in  
50 2002; and,

60 WHEREAS: Welfare rolls have declined from 14.2 million recipients in 1994 to  
70 under 6 million as of 2001; and,

80 WHEREAS: The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 requires most people to begin job  
90 training, education, or work; and,

100 WHEREAS: The act only allows a maximum of five years on welfare  
110 throughout one's life; and,

120 WHEREAS: States are allowed to make exceptions on 20% of the cases; and,

130 WHEREAS: Working gives people respect and a feeling of self-worth; and,

140 WHEREAS: Child Poverty dropped from 26.3% in 1993 to 19.6% in 1999,  
150 which was the lowest it had ever been since it was first measured  
160 in 1979; and,

170 WHEREAS: Female headed families' earnings have risen since Welfare Reform  
180 The bottom 20% earnings increased over 81% from 1993  
190 to 1999; and,

200 WHEREAS: Most families leaving welfare still can get food stamps and  
210 Medicaid; and,

220 WHEREAS: A 16.5 billion dollar grant was given over 6 years in the 1996  
230 welfare reform act; and,

240 WHEREAS: States can keep the money they do not use for welfare for other  
250 things like health care and education.

260 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature  
270 urges Congress to reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform Act; and,

280 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the block grant should be reduced to 12  
290 billion dollars due to the decreased number of people on welfare.

300 MANDATES: President George W. Bush  
310 U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee  
320 Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Sponsor:  
Michael Fleg  
2109 Ellicott Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
mikefleg@wam.umd.edu