

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

**72ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
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CREATIVE INDUSTRIES INDEX

WHEREAS, the creative industries are arts-centric businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theatres to commercial film, architecture, and advertising companies; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries are one of the fastest-growing sectors in the information economy – throughout the country and in every community; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries play a major role in building and sustaining economically vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries serve as magnets to attract businesses and their employees, and are the main reason for stimulating a marked increase in cultural tourism; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries are integral to every community. Jobs supported by the creative industries cannot, for the most part, be “outsourced” to other countries, but they can enjoy having their work product be one of America’s leading exports, with estimates of \$30 billion annually in overseas sales; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has embarked on a national study to benchmark and in the future annually measure the growth of the creative industries in America on a national, state and local basis; and

WHEREAS, for the 2004 benchmark year, Americans for the Arts has found that there are 548,000 creative industry businesses in America, representing 4.3 percent of all U.S. businesses; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has further found that these 548,000 creative industry businesses support 2.99 million jobs nationwide, representing 2.2 percent of the U.S. workforce; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts will be formally releasing further details of the Creative Industries Index this summer and will provide job and business data for the creative industries broken down by geo-political lines for

congressional, state delegation, county and city jurisdictions throughout the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the United States Conference of Mayors bring this important data to the attention of local, state, and federal policy and lawmakers and private sector leaders for use in fostering creative industries and jobs in order to build economically vibrant communities.

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 2004 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month,

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.

CREATION OF A SECRETARY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

WHEREAS, the non-profit arts industry generates over \$134 billion in economic activity per year, generates over 4.8 million jobs and \$34 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues per year; and

WHEREAS, the tourism industry has generated more than 57 million jobs, \$ 4 trillion in expenditures, \$157 billion in trade surpluses, and over \$620 billion in federal, state, and local taxes over the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, the travel and tourism industry is our nation's third largest employer trailing only the health and business service industries; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and arts and business leaders from around the country have recognized the significant contribution of the culture and tourism industry and its direct links to the arts and culture as an economic catalyst; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that our Nation create a clear and coherent federal policy for Culture and Tourism; and

WHEREAS, many countries throughout the world have established national cabinet level positions for arts, culture, and tourism - 66% of the countries in the Western Hemisphere have a cabinet level Minister of tourism, 58% have a Minister of Culture and the Arts, and 80% of the countries in Europe have a minister of Culture; and

WHEREAS, the future economic survival of our country and our cities rests on the ability to maximize the impact of the tourism, arts, and cultural industries; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America must have a National Advocate charged with the task of forming the national policy for culture and tourism, and solely dedicated to the protection, development, and expansion of their industries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the creation of a Cabinet level Secretary of Culture and Tourism charged with forming a national policy for tourism, arts, and culture.

THE GET OUTDOORS ACT

WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared obesity is on track to overtake tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that obesity-related health problems cost the U.S. economy nearly \$100 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, about 15.5 percent of adolescents (ages 12 to 19) and 15.3 percent of children (ages 6 to 11) are obese. The increase in obesity among American youth over the past two decades is dramatic

WHEREAS, lack of physical activity is one of the root causes of obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Get Outdoor Act (GO Act) would help reduce obesity by establishing a permanent source of funding to provide \$3 billion annually to encourage physical activity and recreation in urban, suburban, and rural areas;

WHEREAS, the GO Act will provide funding directly to local governments for parks, recreation programs, and community needs, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to pass the Get Outdoors Act to address obesity related problems and provide physical and recreational opportunities in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OBESITY
AND OVERWEIGHT**

WHEREAS, over 64 percent of American adults are either obese or overweight; and in the past decade, the prevalence of obesity and overweight has increased by 70 and 12 percent, respectively; and

WHEREAS, obesity is the second leading cause of preventable deaths resulting in over 300,000 deaths in the United States; and obesity is correlated with 30 medical conditions, including Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, hypertension, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15 percent of children and adolescents (ages 6 to 19) are obese and about 30 percent of children and adolescents are overweight; and in the past 25 years, the prevalence of obesity in children (ages 6 to 11) has more than quadrupled and the prevalence of obesity in adolescents (ages 12-19) has more than doubled; and in the past three decades, the prevalence of overweight children and adolescents has increased approximately 11 percent; and

WHEREAS, obesity and overweight in children and adolescents are predictors of excess weight in adulthood and are associated with increased morbidity and mortality; and obesity and overweight are correlated with asthma, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, orthopedic complications, psychosocial effects, stigma, and sleep apnea in children; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 approximately \$75 billion in medical expenditures were attributed to obesity, half of which were financed by Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity disproportionately affects African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, women and persons of low socioeconomic status within minority populations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes obesity and overweight as conditions that can persist from childhood to adulthood, that are associated with chronic disease, and that cause preventable and premature deaths in adults, adolescents and children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports local leadership in obesity and overweight prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports policies and public health programs that reduce obesity and overweight and improve wellness such as community-wide campaigns, "point-of decision" prompts, school-based physical education, school-based health education, media campaigns, social support programs, individually-adapted health behavior change, improved access to places for physical activity, informational outreach activities, and land use planning and community design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports a range of public health interventions to address land use, environmental, cultural, socioeconomic, and behavioral factors associated with obesity and overweight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the development of policies that address social injustices that contributes to the disproportionate burden of obesity and overweight among under-represented, low-income, and socially disadvantaged populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports partnerships among local, state, federal agencies, community groups and private organizations in their efforts to reduce obesity and overweight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the federal, state and local governments to allocate funding and resources to the prevention and treatment of obesity and overweight.

**INCREASE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AND EXPAND
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, access to high quality, safe and enriching after-school and out-of-school programs for children and youth continues to be a priority for mayors; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs promote cognitive learning, enhances the physical, social, emotional and moral development of youth, and provides a means to reduce the risk of youth involvement in crime, violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and gangs; and

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible, and high quality after-school and out-of-school programs are necessary if we are to achieve the goals of No Child Left Behind; and

WHEREAS, 91 percent of parents with children in after-school programs are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the programs and thus significant public support; and

WHEREAS, 14.3 million Kindergarten through 12th graders take care of themselves after the school day ends which translates to 1 in 4 school-age children being unsupervised; and

WHEREAS, only 6.5 million children or 11 percent of the nation's youth are enrolled in after-school programs which is only 1 in 9 students enrolled in grades K-12; and

WHEREAS, parents of another 15.3 million or 30 percent of the children say they would have their child participate if there was a program available,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase the level of funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to its authorized level of \$2 billion in fiscal year 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors across the country to sign on as a

partner with the *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to increase funding and participation in these programs, and that all children have an opportunity to participate by the year 2010.

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

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a visionary and bipartisan program established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wetlands and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat, promote environmental stewardship, and enhance recreational opportunities for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the sister program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, was created to address the needs of inner city recreation by providing matching grants and technical assistance for the rehabilitation of recreational facilities to economically distressed urban communities; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation fund should receive \$900 million dollars annually derived from royalties from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS, for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program to have a far reaching affect, it should be funded at \$125 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund returns conservation and recreation funds back to local communities and governments; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been responsible for the acquisition and enhancement of more than 40,000 community parks in forty years of existence; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program has been responsible for the rehabilitation of thousands of community centers, urban parks, and community pools; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program have been integral to a healthy and safe community life through funding state and municipal parks, and creating neighborhood soccer, baseball, and football fields; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund promotes smart growth and livable communities; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program both help Americans become physically active thereby contributing to a healthier lifestyle that can provide a better quality of life for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the need to preserve open spaces, develop national, state, and local parks and recreational facilities, manage wildlife, and preserve America's historic treasures becomes more critical each year due to the demands placed on such facilities by ever increasing populations; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program are critical resources for providing direct access to recreational places for Americas young people; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund advances economic and job development in cities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities have been the recipients of thousands of Land and Water Conservation Fund stateside grants that have added parks, wetlands, and helped millions of Americans gain access to recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have been recipients of Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program matching grants that have rehabilitated community centers, pools, and helped to make urban parks safer places for kids to recreate; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 stateside appropriation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was \$94 million and the Federal side appropriation was \$177 million, which combined is more than two thirds below the full amount that it was designated to receive annually; and

WHEREAS, the last two years, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program has been zeroed out in the appropriations process and has left many inner city communities without a designated resource to address their needs for recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress, in its annual appropriations process, authorize 20% of Outer Continental

Shelf revenues to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its authorized level of \$900 million and that they designate \$125 million to the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program to assist the recreation needs of economically distressed communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that authorizing legislation permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program represents the most effective long-term solution to enhancing municipal recreation needs and should be vigorously pursued by Congress.

REIMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES FROM CANADA

WHEREAS, the high cost of prescription drugs has become a serious problem in cities across the United States, burdening individuals, families, municipal governments, and city taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the federal government appears unable or unwilling to address this pressing issue, despite growing bi-partisan support at the local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, a number of hard-pressed cities have adopted creative programs to circumvent the outrageous costs that seniors and others must pay for prescription drugs in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, a number of hard-pressed cities have adopted creative programs to circumvent the federally protected monopoly by domestic drug companies; and

WHEREAS, such initiatives have allowed covered individuals to purchase prescription medicines - identical to those they would have purchased in the U.S. - directly from Canadian pharmacies at prices well below those available in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, such initiatives have resulted in significant savings for city employees, retirees, and taxpayers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to consider such initiatives as opportunities to lower the high cost of providing prescription drugs for employees and other citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the federal government to enact legislation that would allow U.S. citizens legal access to safe, affordable prescription medications from Canada, and to take other fundamental steps to bring about the reasonable pricing of prescription drugs in the U.S.

**IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH TO INVESTIGATE CAUSES FOR CANCER
DISPARITIES AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC POPULATIONS**

WHEREAS, African American women have a lower incidence of breast cancer than white women, but have a higher mortality rate from the disease even when adjustments are made for income, education, and access to health care; and

WHEREAS, African American men have the highest incidence and mortality rates from prostate cancer in the world; and

WHEREAS, among Mexican American and Puerto Rican women, cervical cancer incidence is two to three times higher than in non-Hispanic White women; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the number one incident cancer in Vietnamese American women, but breast cancer is the number one incident cancer for all racial and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, Korean American men experience the highest rate of stomach cancer of all racial/ethnic groups, and a five-fold increased rate of stomach cancer over White American men; and

WHEREAS, the causes for these differences, and others, in cancer incidence and/or mortality among various racial and ethnic groups are unknown,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for research to investigate the reasons that certain cancer(s) heavily affects a particular racial or ethnic population.

**IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATELY SUPPLYING THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL
STOCKPILE WITH ANTHRAX VACCINE**

WHEREAS, the United States of America needs to have an adequate stockpile of biological vaccines. This includes the only approved and tested anthrax vaccine, while the next generation of biological vaccines are being proposed, developed, and tested, the United States of America needs to have an adequate supply of approved and proven biological vaccines, this includes the only approved anthrax vaccine; and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Defense has effectively and actively immunized more than one million soldiers over the last five years from anthrax, with the only approved vaccine; and

WHEREAS, if there is an anthrax attack today in the United States, the American people and our first responders need to be prepared. Our cities, states, and nation need adequate stockpiles of anthrax vaccine today; and

WHEREAS, the next generation of anthrax vaccines may not be tested and approved for another five years; and

WHEREAS, the recent setbacks in the next generation smallpox program should highlight the need for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to reevaluate its decisions regarding anthrax. Though millions of dollars have been invested in the next generation smallpox, this product may never be useable by the Strategic National Stockpile because of its side effects. We may be headed in that same direction with the next generation of anthrax vaccines; and

WHEREAS, if there were an anthrax attack today involving multiple urban areas we would not have enough vaccine to treat our citizens in accordance with CDC recommendations, which call for three doses of anthrax vaccine and antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, the DHHS is putting all its efforts in one experimental and untested vaccine; and

WHEREAS, the DHHS has plans to stockpile only a small amount of the current and approved anthrax vaccine to date, and appears to have no plans to stockpile more than a

minimum level of the current FDA approved vaccine to prevent anthrax,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Secretary Tommy Thompson to increase the level of the FDA approved and tested anthrax vaccine into the Strategic National Stockpile without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on all its members to take all necessary steps to protect the country's cities over the next five years while the next generation vaccines are being developed and approved by the FDA.

OPEN ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, mental illness is prevalent in America and failure to acknowledge and treat it results in extraordinary costs to families and government, as well as cause individual suffering; and

WHEREAS, the stigma and treatment of mental illness is impacted by unique cultural and ethnic traditions and characteristics particularly in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged by health scientists that individuals react in manners that vary upon receiving a given treatment, yet historically participation of members from communities of color in clinical trials has been limited in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, progress is being made to include and analyze data from ethnic minorities in clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, ethnic minorities continue to experience pervasive disparities in their health status indices in America; and

WHEREAS, persons with mental illness enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare are among our country's most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, as healthcare expenditures grow, many state Medicaid programs are responding to the need to cut costs by increasing restrictions on access to medications and services; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide access to necessary treatments and services for mental illness could result in increased costs and suffering for patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, prior authorization requirements and restrictions could disrupt the clinical relationship between doctor and patient and cause doctors, pharmacists, patients and their families to waste time, money and worry; and

WHEREAS, restrictions on mental health treatments and services in Medicaid could harm and may fail to recognize the benefits of recent research, which includes data on ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, bureaucratic appeals mechanisms delay treatment and cause patients and their families anxiety about whether they are receiving the medical care the doctor thinks is best or only the medical care that the payer will allow,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors supports legislation to remove impediments within the Medicaid system that attempt to control the doctor's recommendation and the patient's access to a course of treatment to meet the patient's mental health needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to provide treatments, health education, and services that recognize the particular needs of our communities, especially minority communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on the mayors to begin a public dialogue within their communities on mental health with the goal of erasing the stigma and fear of mental illness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on all concerned parties to increase minority and under represented communities' participation in clinical trials.

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, food insecurity and hunger are daily facts of life for millions of low-income Americans; and

WHEREAS, millions of hungry children in the United States suffer serious effects of food insecurity, including physical, mental, and social impairment; and

WHEREAS, the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban America, touching nearly every American community; and

WHEREAS, although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, certain groups, notably the working poor, the elderly, homeless people, children, migrant workers and Native Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Initiative on Hunger and Homelessness, directed through the Conference's Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness supports child nutrition programs and food donation programs, and supports providing essential nutrition support to millions of low-income people; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting the hungry and food insecure people; and

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 local community based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than one million volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, a diverse group of organizations, including America's Second Harvest, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and other organizations have documented substantial increases in requests for emergency food assistance over the past year; and

WHEREAS, all Americans across the country can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities through donating food, money, or through volunteerism and by supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on communities across the nation to observe the principles and recommendations of "National Hunger Awareness Day", June 3 of this year and every year forward with such activities as volunteerism, support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters, and through the year-round support of programs and public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in all local communities across the country.

**SUPPORTING RESOURCES TO FIGHT AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND
AROUND THE WORLD**

WHEREAS, in December 2003, UNAIDS reported that in 2003 HIV/AIDS killed more than 3 million and infected an estimated 5 million people worldwide, bringing the number of people living with HIV/AIDS around the world to 40 million; and

WHEREAS, the global impact of HIV/AIDS is far more devastating than ever imagined, decreasing life expectancy, increasing child mortality, orphaning millions, wiping out development gains, and threatening to undermine national security in highly-affected societies; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, though there have been recent declines in AIDS-related deaths as a result of the widespread use of HIV medications, the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains an enormous health emergency – at the end of 2002, 384,906 people were known to be living with AIDS in the U.S. and its territories and more than 40,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year; and

WHEREAS, 83 percent of persons with AIDS in the United States live in our cities and rely on public health care and social service systems for care and treatment, making funding for prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and supportive services critical investments in our health care system; and

WHEREAS, the Ryan White CARE Act, the nation's largest discretionary investment in the care of people with HIV/AIDS, 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, under-served populations, including people of color; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce new infections, ensure quality health care, and prolong the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS, it is essential that sufficient resources continue to be allocated to cities through the Ryan White CARE Act (including Title I) and other key HIV/AIDS programs to address new challenges in the HIV/AIDS epidemic and maintain existing continuum of life-saving care and prevention services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to increase funding for critical domestic HIV/AIDS programs by allocating an additional \$574.34 million to the Ryan White CARE Act, including \$86.96 million for Title I, \$319.07 million for Title II AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and \$27.3 million for Title III; an additional \$206.7 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative; an additional \$367.1 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for domestic prevention programs; an additional \$2.8 billion for research to the National Institutes of Health; and an additional \$55.2 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for its commitment to combat HIV/AIDS abroad and urges the allocation of additional resources to stem the spread of this global pandemic.

ANTIFREEZE SAFETY MEASURE

WHEREAS, most antifreeze contains ethylene glycol, an extremely toxic yet sweet tasting substance that causes injury to thousands of children and kills thousands of animals every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council, the American Medical Association and the American Association of Poison Control Centers have noted that the addition of nontoxic bittering agents can make antifreeze so unpalatable that children and animals will reject the products upon tasting them, thus preventing injury or death; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Consumer's Union, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Humane Association, the Doris Day Animal League, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the World Wildlife Fund, the American Kennel Club and the Pet Food Institute support the health and safety of children and animals and favor the passage of legislation that requires a bittering agent to be added to antifreeze; and

WHEREAS, the cost to add the most common bittering agent, denatonium benzoate, to antifreeze is approximately 2 to 3 cents per gallon, and by law, antifreeze manufacturers in Oregon and California already must include this bittering agent; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors supports the health and safety of children and animals; and

WHEREAS, Congress has introduced legislation in the House to require the inclusion of denatonium benzoate at a minimum of 30 parts per million as a bittering agent to any engine coolant or antifreeze that contains more than 10 percent ethylene glycol,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to help cities protect children and animals by enacting legislation to require denatonium benzoate as an additive to antifreeze that contains ethylene glycol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges the Administration to advance this

legislation this year to help avoid further harm to children and animals.

SUPPORTING AN AMERICAN CENTER FOR CURES

WHEREAS, every day, even though new scientific breakthroughs are encouraging, Americans continually lose their personal battles against disease and these discoveries and breakthroughs that create hope for future cures are of little comfort to those suffering from life-threatening diseases that remain unresolved; and

WHEREAS, for tens of millions of individuals and their families affected by devastating illness, the urgency to find cures is a matter of personal survival; and

WHEREAS, diseases strike all Americans, regardless of their race, religion, gender, political party, age, insurance status, or any other demographic identification and we will all be beneficiaries of finding cures to chronic and terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS, finding cures not only improves the health of mankind, it will improve our economic well being and it is said that by simply delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease by five years, our state Medicaid budget crises for long term care would be completely solved; and

WHEREAS, the American Center for Cures, with cabinet-level authority, will possess unique skill sets and tools, operational flexibility, multi-year budgeting, and public accountability, will have the capacity to convert the urgency felt by millions of Americans personally affected by deadly and debilitating disease into concrete, deliberate and unrelenting work to find cures; and

WHEREAS, although this endeavor is the Manhattan Project of this century, the American Center for Cures would not be about building institutions or assembling turf for its stewardship - its purpose would be to use America's great strength, intensely focused on applied medical science discovery; and

WHEREAS, the American Center for Cures will be accountable by one measure only, this uniquely focused organization with multi-disciplinary teams of research scientists, biologists, technologists, chemists, mathematicians and engineers, working together on each disease in a Manhattan Project/moon-shot like approach, gives America a real opportunity, once and for all, to combat cancers, diabetes,

Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, heart disease, mental illnesses and many other diseases that have plagued America and the world for ages; and

WHEREAS, the American Center for Cures will be the bridge between the promise of scientific opportunities and the reality of our nation's health needs and will, uniquely, take whatever actions are necessary to develop and deliver cures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the establishment of the American Center for Cures, adequately funded, and the creation of a cabinet level position supporting and guiding its efforts.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE

WHEREAS, local city governments provide the first line of defense for their citizens, and first responders are the ones who deal with the health needs of survivors following a catastrophic event in their community; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Medical Response (MMRS) program assists jurisdictions in developing plans, conducting training and exercises, and acquiring pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment to respond to a mass casualty event during the first crucial hours following a terrorist act, an epidemic disease outbreak, an incident involving hazardous materials, or a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, the MMRS program links fire and police responders with other municipal, county and state agencies and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, MMRS organizes an Interagency Threat Assessment Group that shares intelligence with direct delivery components of the emergency response system such as ambulance companies, fire service, hazardous materials responders, and allied law enforcement agencies. Sharing of information greatly enhances the working relationship between agencies and makes for a more effective response to threats or actual incidents; and

WHEREAS, the 124 local MMRS programs in the United States protect 70 percent of the American population; and

WHEREAS, MMRS coordinates, trains, and sponsors directed drills and exercises for responses to terrorist-initiated events, which are large scale events that require the coordination and direct service delivery from many organizations; and

WHEREAS, MMRS systems have identified shortfalls in training and response for various Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) situations, including initiating training programs to certify paramedics to administer immunizations. Such abilities will be critical in the face of a biological epidemic such as smallpox; and

WHEREAS, training is provided by MMRS to improve first responder ability to recognize a chemical, biological and other WMD agents, and to modify the response for such an emergency, as well as direct training on personal protective equipment for such events and how to treat civilians who have been exposed; and

WHEREAS, MMRS systems have plans for treating the first responder and families of first responders in the event of a biological event; and

WHEREAS, MMRS systems, unlike Public Health workers, who are not trained or well experienced in operating the Incident Command System, utilize the system as a core aspect of how they are organized and respond to events; and

WHEREAS, given that, in the face of a WMD threat, or actual WMD event, an estimated 50 people will self-refer to a hospital to every one person who may have had exposure, MMRS systems have plans for rapidly expanding the healthcare system and protecting hospital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recruitment, training, and coordination of medical professionals, including retired doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, is the responsibility of MMRS, so that they can effectively function within an Incident Command System in an actual event; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and other federal resources may recognize a biological event and ship the Strategic National Stockpile to a city. However, once the medications are received at a local airport, there is no provision to offload the aircraft, store the medications, sub-divide the medications, or coordinate dispensing sites at the street level without the MMRS; and

WHEREAS, MMRS recruits, trains, and organizes pharmacy professionals into efficient task forces to respond in the case of a biological WMD event; and

WHEREAS, some MMRS cities have trained upwards of 7,000 persons in terrorism preparedness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on the federal government to release the full \$50 million appropriated for the MMRS program in FY 2004 to

sustain this "all hazards" response capability to protect our nation's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to authorize and fully fund the MMRS program to ensure that our nation's first responders have the resources they need to efficiently and effectively respond to disasters in their local communities.

**NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRY FOR SIBLINGS SEPARATED
IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Child Welfare League and the American Psychological Association have voiced the importance of sibling reunification amongst those separated in the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, siblings separated by placement in different homes suffer from the lack of a centralized registry in which to locate one another; and

WHEREAS, there is recognized mental health significance to the reunification of separated siblings, as well as physical health ramifications; and

WHEREAS, national legislation to create a national reunion registry for adopted adults, siblings and birth parents has been introduced and passed in the United States Senate (most recently S 1487 in 1997); and

WHEREAS, such legislation created a national Voluntary Mutual Reunion registry established at the Department of Health and Human Resources which could be accessed through mutual consent in a signed notarized statement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to pass legislation creating a national, voluntary, mutual reunion registry for siblings separated in the foster care system as well as for adopted adults and birth parents.

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
OF OBESITY AND OVERWEIGHT**

WHEREAS, over 64 percent of American adults are either obese or overweight; and in the past decade, the prevalence of obesity and overweight has increased by 70 and 12 percent, respectively; and

WHEREAS, obesity is the second leading cause of preventable deaths resulting in over 300,000 deaths in the United States; and obesity is correlated with 30 medical conditions, including Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, hypertension, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15 percent of children and adolescents (ages 6 to 19) are obese and about 30 percent of children and adolescents are overweight; and in the past 25 years, the prevalence of obesity in children (ages 6 to 11) has more than quadrupled and the prevalence of obesity in adolescents (ages 12-19) has more than doubled; and in the past three decades, the prevalence of overweight children and adolescents has increased approximately 11 percent; and

WHEREAS, obesity and overweight in children and adolescents are predictors of excess weight in adulthood and are associated with increased morbidity and mortality; and obesity and overweight are correlated with asthma, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, orthopedic complications, psychosocial effects, stigma, and sleep apnea in children; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 approximately \$75 billion in medical expenditures were attributed to obesity, half of which were financed by Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity disproportionately affects African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, women and persons of low socioeconomic status within minority populations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes obesity and overweight as conditions that can persist from childhood to adulthood, that are associated with chronic disease, and that cause preventable and premature deaths in adults, adolescents and children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports local leadership in obesity and overweight prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports policies and public health programs that reduce obesity and overweight and improve wellness such as community-wide campaigns, "point-of decision" prompts, school-based physical education, school-based health education, media campaigns, social support programs, individually-adapted health behavior change, improved access to places for physical activity, informational outreach activities, and land use planning and community design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports a range of public health interventions to address land use, environmental, cultural, socioeconomic, and behavioral factors associated with obesity and overweight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the development of policies that address social injustices that contributes to the disproportionate burden of obesity and overweight among under-represented, low-income, and socially disadvantaged populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages and supports partnerships among local, state, federal agencies, community groups and private organizations in their efforts to reduce obesity and overweight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the federal, state and local governments to allocate funding and resources to the prevention and treatment of obesity and overweight.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PRE-CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, in 2002, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted 4.9 million people, including 2.7 million children, above the poverty line-more than any other federal aid program; and

WHEREAS, currently, the value of the EITC credit is \$36 billion, to the benefit of 22 million hard working, low income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the EITC represents money earned by hard working, low income families and in no way represents a give-away; and

WHEREAS, the EITC provides enormous economic benefit to our communities because recipients spend their EITC dollars on goods and services within our communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond reducing poverty, the EITC promotes work, reduces income inequity and helps low income working families build assets; and

WHEREAS, despite great opposition from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, members of Congress and many national organizations, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) implemented a new "certification" process in December 2003 which required 25,000 EITC applicants to be "certified" before they could receive their EITC benefits; and

WHEREAS, the IRS plans to "pre-certify" an additional 25,000 EITC applicants in July 2004 prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the extensive documentation required for this pre-certification may be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain within the proposed six month deadline and will inevitably deter many eligible families from even applying for the EITC benefit to which they are entitled under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the complications of the "pre-certification" process will inevitably cause delays in EITC refunds of such filers, refunds that families count on for basic living expenses; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has indicated that it may expand the "pre-certification" requirements to approximately two million filers for the coming filing seasons, and do so prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the IRS appears to be targeting low income working families applying for the EITC benefit while not requiring pre-certification for tax shelters purchased by corporations or tax benefits claimed by higher income individuals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to address any delays in tax returns that EITC filers have experienced due to the certification and pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the IRS initiative to continue and expand the EITC pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to prohibit any further implementation of new EITC requirements without proper Congressional authorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the IRS to simplify EITC so that all those who are eligible can and will apply for their justly deserved tax credit.

SUPPORTING SECTION 8 FUNDING

WHEREAS, Section 8 voucher assistance is critical to ensuring affordable housing currently for approximately 2 million families, elderly and disabled households in our cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, mayors and their residents who receive Section 8 vouchers are facing a serious crisis as a result of a policy guidance by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) based on Congressional law; and

WHEREAS, Congress allocated an additional \$1 billion dollars in the FY 2004 budget with the intent to fund every Section 8 voucher allocated throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, contrary to this congressional action, HUD plans to implement a renewal funding formula in FY 2004 for Section 8 vouchers based on costs incurred by the program as of August 2003 (adjusted for inflation), rather than actual cost data, which outpaces HUD's adjustment factor; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions across the country will be forced to make an immediate decision to cancel existing Section 8 voucher contracts, reduce the federal subsidy and/or require the most needy citizens to pay higher rents in excess of 30% of their monthly income; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed budget for FY 2005 contains a Flexible Voucher Program which proposes to block grant Section 8 voucher funding to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs); and

WHEREAS, the Flexible Voucher program does not provide adequate funding levels to fully fund every Section 8 voucher currently allocated; and

WHEREAS, approximately 250,000 Section 8 vouchers would be eliminated across the country based on the FY 2005 proposed funding requests, resulting in unforeseen housing and financial hardships by the most needy of our low-income population and working poor,

WHEREAS, in addition to eliminating existing families from the Section 8 voucher program, the far-reaching effects of the Flexible Voucher proposal could result in (1) higher

rent payments by those citizens who can least afford an increase, (2) private landlords less willing to participate in the program if subsidies are eliminated or unreliable, which would severely reduce the already limited housing choices for low-income households that have been available over the past few years, and (3) fewer vouchers available for families, elderly and disabled households who have been waiting for years to receive a Section 8 voucher; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges HUD to reconsider its FY 2004 renewal funding formula and fully fund every Section 8 voucher currently in use across the country; and urges Congress to continue to fully fund in FY 2005 every Section 8 voucher currently allocated.

**ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS:
ENDORISING SAMARITAN INITIATIVE
AND ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS SERVICES INITIATIVE**

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 to make housing for the chronically homeless work, supportive services are necessary to mitigate health, substance abuse, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that 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, the abolition of 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, approximately 110 cities have committed to create jurisdictionally-based 10-Year plans to end chronic homelessness in response to the resolution passed in the 2003 Annual Meeting in partnership with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has been meeting with mayors across the country to foster 10-

Year Plans in partnership with all sectors of the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the Administration's FY 2005 \$70 million multi-agency budget proposal for the Samaritan Initiative, which will help cities implement housing and supportive services strategies to end chronic homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports an increased investment of at least \$45 million to be included in the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's Projects of Regional and National Significance for the Ending Long Term Homelessness Service Initiative to add to the on-site supportive services of the Samaritan Initiative.

SUPPORT FOR HUD'S ZERO DOWNPAYMENT FHA PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the U.S. homeownership rate has reached record levels, with 68.6% of households (72.6 million) currently owning their own homes; and,

WHEREAS, extending homeownership to more families has been a national priority because of the great financial and social benefits that result from homeownership; and,

WHEREAS, homeownership is very effective both as a wealth-building tool for families and a community-building tool for neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, minority homeownership rates are not equal to that of non-minorities. In the 4th quarter of 2003, 50.6 percent of minority households owned their own homes compared to a non-Hispanic white rate of 75.5 percent; and,

WHEREAS, President Bush and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) developed the *Blueprint for the American Dream* initiative last year to close the minority homeownership gap and create 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of the decade; and,

WHEREAS, the downpayment is often an unwarranted obstacle to homeownership, especially for minority and low- and moderate-income families. A recent Federal Reserve study indicated that removing the downpayment for African-American and Hispanic families would have a far greater impact on homeownership rates than lowering interest rates; and

WHEREAS, HUD believes that FHA can be a primary vehicle for closing this gap and increasing the number of minority and low- and moderate-income families able to achieve homeownership. FHA has a long and strong record of assisting those not served by conventional markets; and

WHEREAS, the "Zero Downpayment proposal" will empower FHA with an additional tool to fulfill its mandate to serve those families underserved in the private market. This initiative will increase homeownership opportunities for minority and low- and moderate-income families who can handle the responsibilities of homeownership but find it difficult to save for a downpayment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors goes on record supporting HUD's FHA Zero Downpayment proposal.

SUPPORTING PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable housing in our nation's cities is a major concern of our mayors and citizens; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of housing that is affordable and available to low- and moderate-income households; and

WHEREAS, three in ten renter households pay more than 30% of their incomes for housing, and for extremely low-income households this number rises to eight in ten; and

WHEREAS, many private assisted housing units have affordability commitments that have expired or will soon expire and can therefore be expected to convert to market-rate housing unless there is federal support for transactions that preserve affordability; and

WHEREAS, affordable properties are aging and face increasing costs for major repair and rehabilitation and could potentially be lost due to deterioration without government intervention; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant costs associated with repair and maintenance, affordable housing preservation is typically far more cost efficient than the creation of new affordable housing stock; and

WHEREAS, tax penalties incurred at the sale of subsidized properties in order to recapture tax benefits received by the owner - commonly referred to as "exit taxes" - often act as a significant disincentive for the transfer and preservation of federally subsidized housing units; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Code prohibits the use of low-income housing tax credits to assist buildings that have received assistance through the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program, and consequently restricts the resources available to preserve many affordable housing units;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors generally supports efforts to preserve affordable housing units, and recognizes preservation as an important component of efforts to address the current shortage of affordable housing in our cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of a federal policy, such as the one proposed in H.R. 3485, which would provide exit tax relief to owners of federally-assisted properties who sell these properties to purchasers who agree to keep them affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the repeal of the low-income housing tax credit disqualification for buildings that have received assistance through the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation program, as proposed in H.R. 4289.

**ENDORISING PUBLIC HOUSING REFORM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM KNOWN AS
FREEDOM TO HOUSE**

WHEREAS, President Bush has asked Congress to create a demonstration program in 2005 called *Freedom to House*, which is designed to improve public housing; and

WHEREAS, experience gained from the existing *Moving to Work* pilot program shows that residents benefit from the increased flexibility given to Public Housing Authorities (PBAs); and

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

WHEREAS, the demonstration sought by the President will provide greater flexibility for PHAs to administer their low rent housing units and move toward asset-based management, a fundamental recommendation of the congressionally mandated Harvard Public Housing Cost Study and the Millennial Housing Commission; and

WHEREAS, participating PHAs will also be able to combine capital and operating funds to utilize HUD's rental assistance more effectively; and

WHEREAS, this demonstration will advance our knowledge of workable public housing reforms that promote the quality of life of families residing in public housing, as well as good property management and the continuing preservation of low rent housing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, in partnership with the Federal government, wishes to help improve public housing by supporting the *Freedom to House* demonstration program and strongly encourages PHAs to participate in this program.

**IN SUPPORT OF HUD'S OFFICE OF HEALTHY HOMES BUDGET AND SENATOR
BOND AND MIKULSKI'S REQUEST FOR \$50 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FY '05
FUNDING FOR LEAD SAFE CITIES**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify childhood lead poisoning as the country's number one most preventable environmental health hazard;

WHEREAS, According to CDC, nearly 22% of African-American children living in older homes have elevated blood lead levels. Minority children in low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately at risk of exposures to lead hazards;

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors and DuPont partnered to create Cities United for Science Progress (CUSP) and through CUSP, by the end of 2004 over \$2.25 million in grants will have been awarded to Mayors to make their cities lead safe.

WHEREAS, Senators Christopher "Kit" Bond and Barbara Mikulski, champions of the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant program funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2003 and recently renewed for 2004, have succeeded in appropriating \$50 million per year to cities with the greatest risk of childhood exposures to lead hazards.

WHEREAS, thirty-three communities applied for the grants in 2003; twenty \$2 - \$3 million grants were awarded for a total of \$49.6 million, including the following fifteen cities: Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Grand Rapids, MI; Los Angeles, CA; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Rochester, NY; San Francisco, CA; St. Louis, MO; Syracuse, NY; Washington, DC.

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors was an early supporter in 2003 of the Bond-Mikulski grant program and efforts by industry leaders and non-profit organizations, such as the Children's Health Forum, to eradicate childhood lead poisoning in US cities.

WHEREAS, the Children's Health Forum, chaired by former Executive Director of the NAACP, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, and former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, helped establish the \$50 million grant program by calling on legislators to prevent and eliminate childhood exposures to lead hazards.

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors, Senators Bond and Mikulski, The Children's Health Forum and other industry supporters have worked tirelessly on behalf of children to secure federal funding that will directly benefit the cities who need the most help.

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the US Conference of Mayors:

- Commends Senators Bond and Mikulski, the Children's Health Forum, and others in the non-profit and private sector for successfully joining with the USCM in fighting for renewal the \$50 million Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant program for 2004, and calls on Congress and the President to support funding again for FY 2005.
- Supports the Children's Health Forum and its outreach efforts at the local levels dedicated to educating the public about lead safety practices and lead hazard awareness.
- Opposes any cuts to HUD's FY2005 budget for the Office of Healthy Homes, and supports an increase in federal funding dedicated to lead hazard prevention, control and remediation efforts.
- Calls on all concerned members of the USCM to implement proactive, results-orientated strategies that include public-private partnerships in pursuit of making their cities lead-safe by the year 2010.
- Urges government officials to vigorously enforce lead-related federal, state, and local laws, including those requiring property owners to inform occupants about the risks of lead hazards, to abate any lead hazards in their properties, and to prevent any such hazards from arising in the future.
- Encourages cities, non-profits, and interested businesses to creatively engage in public-private partnerships to implement best practices to advance the elimination of lead hazards and the eradication of lead poisoning.

SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides grants for infrastructure development, local capacity building, and business development to help communities alleviate conditions of substantial and persistent unemployment and underemployment in economically distressed areas and regions; and

WHEREAS, since 1965, EDA has invested more than \$16 billion in grants across all programs, including local public works and special initiatives such as responding to natural disasters and defense conversion, and has generated more than \$36 billion in private investment; and

WHEREAS, EDA's public works investments generate \$10.08 million private sector investment and \$10.13 million in local tax base for every \$1.0 million of EDA funds; and

WHEREAS, EDA provides the capacity at the local level that allows distressed areas to develop their own locally-based comprehensive economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, EDA supports local programs that target assistance to specific economic development needs in distressed communities; and

WHEREAS, EDA helps finance long-term investments needed to diversify local economics and create jobs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors also supports full funding for the Economic Development Administration.

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

WHEREAS, Congress has chartered the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) – Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – to serve as a secondary market and thereby bring liquidity to the mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, through their prudent mortgage lending, have greatly expanded affordable housing through the purchase of single and multifamily mortgages benefiting low- and moderate-income homebuyers, residents of distressed inner cities and lower-income renters; and

WHEREAS, mixed-income neighborhoods are critical to the success of cities; and

WHEREAS, the GSEs have made renewed commitments to affordable housing and serving low-and moderate-income homebuyers and renters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE United States Conference of Mayors hereby adopts the following policy regarding the Government Sponsored Enterprises:

- Any legislation enacted by Congress should ensure that the critical role that the GSEs play in the nation's housing finance system be maintained and strengthened;
- Any legislation enacted by Congress should ensure that those with expertise in housing policy hold regulatory authority over the GSE's housing mission; and
- Regulations meant to encourage the GSEs to do more for affordable housing must also ensure that the companies are able to meet their mission of providing low-cost credit to middle-income borrowers and mixed-income communities, while pressing the GSEs to continue to do more in low-income communities.

**SUPPORTING THE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION
OF HOUSING WITH FEATURES THAT PROVIDE BASIC
ACCESS AND FUNCTIONALITY TO ALL OCCUPANTS AND VISITORS**

WHEREAS, no federal regulations or programs presently exist that encourage or require individual single-family houses, multiple-story townhouses, multiple-housing unit buildings containing less than four housing units, and other multiple-housing unit buildings located on properties that contain less than a total of eight housing units, to be constructed with practical features that provide basic access and functionality for people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities; and

WHEREAS, many people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities are discouraged from visiting family and friends because of fundamental design barriers that prohibit or make access to and functionality within most housing impractical to many; and

WHEREAS, there is very limited number of residences available for purchase or rent with features that provide basic access and functionality to people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities; and

WHEREAS, the proportion of the general population with special mobility needs who continue to remain active is increasing due to medical and technological advances; and

WHEREAS, at some point in life, many people incur an extended temporary or permanent condition that results in physical limitations or special needs related to mobility or to performing basic daily life tasks; and

WHEREAS, increasingly more people are facing or will face loss of independence and having to leave their homes for institutional or assisted care living facilities, becoming more dependent on social and public services because most homes do not provide basic access and functionality features for people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities; and

WHEREAS, the cost of installing basic access and functionality features for people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities during the construction process is significantly lower than the

cost of installing those same features after construction;
and

WHEREAS, a program such as "Practical Housing for All (PHA)", the purpose of which is: (a) to create awareness among designers, builders, and the community at large of the need for providing basic access and functionality features for people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities; and (b) to encourage those fundamental elements being included on the first or main floor of new housing units that are not otherwise regulated with respect to accessibility features; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all citizens to encourage the construction of more housing with practical functional features that offers residents and visitors alike, regardless of individual mobility and ambulatory abilities, the fundamental freedom to enter and use a home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors supports the purpose of Practical Housing for All (PHA) and efforts to encourage the voluntary inclusion of the minimum basic practical features as described herein which foster independence and enable people of all ages and widely varying mobility and ambulatory-related abilities to function in the residential environment.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors supports promotional efforts such as homebuilder and buyer awareness outreach, prioritized development review and permit processing consideration, and certification and recognition awards to builders that voluntarily construct PHA-eligible housing, including new housing units that are not otherwise regulated by federal or state with respect to accessibility features.

SUPPORT FOR HOPE VI

WHEREAS, the Hope VI Program was established as a National Action Program to eradicate severely distressed public housing; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of millions of dollars have been appropriated to the Hope VI Program to assist local public housing authorities in the elimination of substandard residential housing and living conditions; and

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

WHEREAS, prior investments in the Hope VI Program has been successful in creating mixed income and diversified affordable housing opportunities for citizens; 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, there is need to modify the Hope VI Program and release some of the regulatory burdens placed on public housing assisted units in mixed-income communities to assist in leveraging private investments that is key to the success of the Hope VI Program and its neighborhood revitalization objectives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the US Congress should sustain and increase funding appropriations for the Hope VI Program and modify the program to authorize a mixed income, mixed financed community development program that is based on realistic and reasonable market assumptions. This modified program approach will enhance the HOPE VI program and provide increased access for low and moderate income citizens to obtain affordable housing, maximize private investment and ease the federal burden for implementing the program.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that HUD and Hope VI policy allow housing near places of employment including some industrial zoning which meet smart growth goals.

FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, America's mayors are 100 percent committed to the homeland war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, cities throughout the nation have already dedicated unprecedented, and mostly unbudgeted, resources to the new war on terrorism as detailed in surveys released by the Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, over \$7 billion in new funding has been appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004 for first responder assistance; and

WHEREAS, despite a major lobbying effort by the nation's mayors - in partnership with local first responders including police chiefs, fire chiefs, police officers and fire officers - the majority of this funding has been sent through the states; and

WHEREAS, two 50 state surveys conducted by the Conference of Mayors Homeland Security Monitoring Center in September of 2003 and January of 2004 found that a majority of cities had not yet received funding from the largest federal first responder program; many states had chosen to send funding to regional or county governments; and problems exist regarding the involvement of cities in state planning processes; and

WHEREAS, because each state can establish its own funding distribution plan, local governments do not have a predictable source of funding that can be integrated into local homeland security plans; and

WHEREAS, there has not been established a detailed, transparent monitoring system to track the federal funding through the states to local governments and first responders; and

WHEREAS, President Bush acknowledged that a logjam existed in the states on this funding during the Conference of Mayors' 72nd Winter Meeting in January of 2004, and pledged to help "unstick" the funds; and

WHEREAS, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge immediately responded to the President's statements by forming a special Task Force on State and Local Homeland Security Funding, with the Conference of

Mayors top three officers and Criminal and Social Justice Committee Chair serving as members; and

WHEREAS, that DHS Task Force has been working to refine the existing funding system through the states to ensure that funding reaches local first responders quickly and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the DHS Task Force has identified a number of structural problems that have accounted for funding difficulties including, but not limited to, the reimbursement nature of the program and the multiple layers of governmental involvement in funding distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force did not address the issue of direct funding; and

WHEREAS, the Administrations FY 2005 budget includes a request for \$3.2 billion in additional first responders assistance, and with the exception of the \$500 million requested for fire grants, the remaining funding would continue to flow through the states; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization bills currently moving forward in the United States Senate and House of Representatives would significantly alter the nature of the first responder program, including a provision in the Senate bill to provide high threat funding directly to local governments without a state passthrough,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation creating a new formula-based first responder funding program with direct local assistance and maximum flexibility to cover costs such as equipment, communications interoperability, training, exercises, planning, critical infrastructure protection, and overtime related to homeland security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should approve retroactive changes to ensure that the more than \$7 billion in the pipeline, as well as future appropriations, can be quickly and efficiently accessed by local governments and first responders including eliminating the reimbursement nature of the first responder program and providing pass-through deadlines for when funding is sent by the states to counties or regional governments.

**REQUIRING PUERTO RICO TO DISTRIBUTE FEDERAL FIRST RESPONDER
ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico's Federation of Mayors (PRFM) is committed to the war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, after September 11, 2001 cities throughout Puerto Rico have tried to allocate unbudgeted resources to the new war on terrorism; and

WHEREAS, during the recent state of High Alert on the National Threat Alert System, and Operation Iraqi Freedom many cities in Puerto Rico were unable to meet the security requirements of High Alert Status; and

WHEREAS, many cities in Puerto Rico lack the economic resources to effectively implement adequate training, equipment, and personnel to secure America's back door; and

WHEREAS, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico will submit the state strategic plan on homeland security with the purpose of assigning total funding to the state and not local units of Government without the local governments involvement on the analysis or threat evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Federation of Mayors in Puerto Rico is concerned with the commonwealth of Puerto Rico proposed Homeland Strategic Plan if approved, it will greatly limit local units of governments ability to effectively implement first responder programs, training, and equipment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Mayors in Puerto Rico by this resolution requests the intervention of The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Department of Homeland Security to mandate the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to distribute the 80 percent of Homeland Security funds to local units of government.

SUPPORT FOR FIRE GRANTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, since 2000, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (the Fire Grant Program) has assisted urban, and suburban, and rural fire departments across the country in the areas of operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, and firefighting vehicle acquisition; and

WHEREAS, in the last 12 months alone, the Fire Grant Program has awarded over \$695 million to over 8,600 fire departments; and

WHEREAS, a fire department in the U.S. responds to a fire every 19 seconds; and

WHEREAS, fire departments in the U.S. are in need of updated equipment, training and vehicles, as evidenced by the fact that: one-third of firefighters per shift do not have a self-contained breathing apparatus, approximately 57,000 per shift lack personal protective equipment, only 13 percent of fire departments are capable of responding to a hazmat incident which involves other emergency rescue personnel, and half of all fire engines are over 15 years old; and

WHEREAS, HR 4107, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Reauthorization Act of 2004 increases the cap for awards to medium to large cities while maintaining the commitment of the program to serve smaller jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Grant Program has maintained a high standard of efficiency and performance in the distribution of Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the fire grant program administered by DHS directly funds cities, thereby efficiently expediting the movement of federal dollars to local jurisdictions while providing flexibility to meet the equipment and training needs of their departments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program within DHS, supports HR 4107 to reauthorize the program, and strongly encourages Congress to ensure that the program is managed and administered by the U.S. Fire Administration.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2005 Budget request to Congress proposes a 25 percent cap on the use of funds through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program to support personnel; and for funding to be reduced by \$9 million from Fiscal Year 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) is the single all hazards emergency preparedness grant program in support of capacity building at the state and local level; and

WHEREAS, the EMPG program was created by Congress to be a 50/50 federal and state match program; and

WHEREAS, the Budget proposal would devastate state and local emergency management programs, and consequently the nation's emergency response system. The National Emergency Management Association conducted an EMPG survey in late 2003 that revealed that approximately 1,522 or 42.9% of state level positions are supported in part by EMPG funds, and that 2,174 full-time and 1,146 part-time positions at the local level are supported by the EMPG program; and

WHEREAS, without adequate numbers of state and local personnel to operate the emergency management system, the infrastructure used to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from all disasters and emergencies could collapse,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reject the Administration's proposed 25 percent cap on the use of EMPG funds for personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EMPG program should be fully funded in FY 2005.

ADOPTING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the ability for various public safety first responders and other support agencies to communicate effectively is crucial to the efficient management of emergencies and disasters that occur in every community; and

WHEREAS, communications effectiveness is contingent upon the establishment of common standards to ensure that disparate systems used by various public safety agencies can interoperate with one another; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated ANSI/TIA/EIAA-102 Phase-1 (Project-25) suite of standards for interoperable channels in the 700mhz. Band and various other federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice have chosen Project 25 as there standard for interoperable radio communications.

WHEREAS, numerous federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and it's subsidiary divisions have included the Project-25 suite of standards within their grant guidelines for federal funding assistance; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2004, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued Version 1.0 of the Statement of Requirements (SOR) for Public Safety Wireless Communications and Interoperability outlining the initiatives needed to improve interoperability amongst public safety agencies nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Project-25 suite of standards for public safety communications interoperability by cities will contribute to the enhancement of public safety nationwide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts and promotes the use of the ANSI/TIA/EIAA-102 Phase-1 (Project-25) suite of standards for public safety communications in all cities across the United States of America.

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, ten years ago this year, with the strong support of America's mayors and law enforcement leaders, the United States Congress passed the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act, which became law on October 1, 1994 and created the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); and

WHEREAS, COPS has made 36,800 grants to nearly 13,000 law enforcement agencies representing a \$10.6 billion taxpayer investment in public safety; and

WHEREAS, COPS grants have been used to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 118,500 additional officers including over 6,100 School Resource Officers, expand and enhance crime-fighting technology, support crime prevention, and advance community policing; and

WHEREAS, COPS has trained over 280,000 law enforcement personnel, local government leaders, and community members in various community policing strategies, produced over 500 publications and resource materials for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, state and local law enforcement agencies have used \$280.3 million in COPS funding to combat the proliferation of methamphetamine by hiring personnel, purchasing equipment, cleaning-up labs, and obtaining critical training in meth-related interdiction tactics, investigation, and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, COPS continues to enjoy a unique relationship with state and local law enforcement and does a superb job of providing vital funding, quickly and efficiently, to local communities, and is cited by mayors and police chiefs as a model federal agency; and

WHEREAS, cities across America continue to use COPS funding to hire and train police officers including school resource officers, enhance vital public safety communication and coordination, develop and implement community policing best practices, and enhance their capacity to reduce crime and prevent future acts of terror, and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains

are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, and in light of the return of over 860,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities annually--many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, community policing and the COPS Office can and should play an important role in efforts to enhance homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2005 budget proposes to cut the COPS program by almost 80 percent to \$95.5 million, eliminating funding for hiring programs such as the Universal Hiring Program, COPS MORE, School Resource Officers, and overtime assistance, as well as for interoperability grants; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has passed legislation to authorize a new, highly flexible COPS program with a \$1 billion authorization,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COPS program must be fully maintained in FY 2005 and beyond through the appropriations process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation to reauthorize the COPS program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reauthorization of COPS should provide significant resources to address the critical needs of local law enforcement, allow for greater program flexibility, continue the COPS Office as an independent component within the Department of Justice, and preserve within COPS all of its current functions. The new program should allow for flexibility to use funding in areas including general hiring, school resource officers, officer re-deployments, officer retention, overtime, technology, and communications interoperability.

THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, in 1996 Congress began providing flexible funding directly to local governments through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) and cities have effectively used these block grant funds for prevention, increased police presence, and technology and equipment, among other activities; and

WHEREAS, many cities have used the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant very effectively in tandem with the COPS program to expand community policing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has done a superb job in effectively and efficiently administering the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, a rise in gang violence, and in light of the return of over 860,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities each year --many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, the LLEBG is one of the few federal-local partnership programs which allows for overtime assistance, which has become even more important as cities respond to the new homeland war against terrorism post September 11; and

WHEREAS, funding for the LLEBG has been slashed by Congress, down from \$523 million in FY 2002 to \$225 million in FY 2004, and of this total, almost \$100 million is directed to other programs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2005 budget proposes to eliminate the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant by merging it with the state-based Byrne Formula Grant program, with overall funding for the new Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) greatly reduced from recent year funding for the two programs individually; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has passed legislation to implement the Administration's JAG

proposal by merging the LLEBG and Byrne grant into a new "Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program;" and

WHEREAS, in addition to merging the programs, the House bill would amend the current "disparate allocation" provision by lowering the threshold under which counties can appeal for more funding, which could reduce funding available to cities to help prevent crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and urges that it not be merged with the state-based Byrne Grant program and that the disparate allocation provision not be altered in a manner which further reduces funding available for cities and their police departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant should be funded at a minimum amount of \$523 million in Fiscal Year 2005, which reflects funding levels prior to FY 2003 and FY 2004 funding reductions.

MEASURE TO AMEND THE C.L.E.A.R. AND H.S.E.A. ACTS OF 2003

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors most vehemently denounces terrorism and acknowledges that federal, state and local governments should work together to protect the public from terrorist attacks in a rational and deliberate manner, and to ensure that security measures enhance public safety without violating the constitutional rights or unduly infringing upon the civil liberties of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2003, Representative Charles Norwood introduced the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act of 2003 (CLEAR Act), H.R. 2671 and on November 20, 2003, Senator Jeff Sessions introduced a similar measure entitled the Homeland Security Enhancement Act of 2003 (HSEA); and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the improved communication measures between the different levels of law enforcement through more efficient use of National Crime Information Center (NCIC); and

WHEREAS, municipal government considers its police the real experts in ensuring public safety and recognizes that local and state police have diligently responded to new homeland security mandates; and

WHEREAS, the CLEAR Act and HSEA will require local and state police to add federal civil immigration law enforcement to their already long list of duties or risk the loss of federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of federal civil immigration law will distract local and state law enforcement from their primary mission of ensuring public safety and preventing crime in our community by having them focus on the apprehension of immigrants instead of criminals and by adding burdensome paperwork and reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to adequately fund, support and provide resources to local first responders, and has repeatedly retracted monies earmarked for appropriation at the community level; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors resolved that no local government resources shall be used to

identify immigration status or apprehend persons solely on the basis of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the CLEAR Act and HSEA will lead to the misapplication of complex and technical immigration laws because local police will not be guaranteed the seventeen weeks of immigration law training required of federal enforcement agents; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement already has the authority to arrest anyone, regardless of immigration status, who commits a crime and threatens the public safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the CLEAR Act and the HSEA would undermine community policing and create an atmosphere where immigrants begin to see local police as federal immigration enforcement agents with the power to deport them or their family members, making them less likely to approach local law enforcement with information on crimes or suspicious activity; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments have enacted legislation to increase public and road safety that allows qualified applicants, regardless of immigration status, to obtain a drivers license and the enactment of HSEA would penalize any state which issues such licenses by withholding federal highway safety funds; and

WHEREAS, the CLEAR ACT and HSEA will endanger the lives of immigrant victims of crime by undermining the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act, both enacted by the federal government to provide them with particular protections; and

WHEREAS, many immigrant victims of crime are unlikely to report the crime to law enforcement if they believe that seeking police protection will result in deportation and ultimately in lost custody of their children; and

WHEREAS, there are over 56 ordinances, police directives, resolutions, and policies across the nation that protect immigrants' access to police protection; and

WHEREAS, there exists significant opposition to parts of the CLEAR Act and HSEA which includes law enforcement, elected officials and government associations, domestic violence prevention advocates, service providers,

conservative thinkers, faith-based groups, civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights organizations, immigrant/refugee rights groups, labor unions, businesses, and financial service providers in addition to community members; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors affirms that no municipal resources will be used to identify and apprehend persons solely based on their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors opposes committing local resources to un-funded federal mandates and affirms that the Clear Act as written does not achieve the purpose of protecting local citizens against terrorism,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to amend the proposed Clear Act and Homeland Security Enhancement Act of 2003 to reflect our opposition to additional un-funded federal mandates, our opposition to distracting local and state law enforcement from their primary mission, and our concerns about potential undermining of previous federal legislation that protects immigrant victims.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

WHEREAS, women are under-represented in government in proportion to their numbers in the population worldwide, and are the largest and fastest growing group among the world's poor; and

WHEREAS, women all over the world have been economically, politically, culturally, sexually and psychologically subordinated; and continue to suffer from long-standing control and abuse of their bodies and their lives; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the 125 million children who will never receive an education are girls and two-thirds of the 880 million illiterate adults are women; and

WHEREAS, women worldwide are subject to sex-based discrimination and vulnerable to gender-based violence and, the concept of human rights cannot be fully realized if women's rights are not fully recognized; and

WHEREAS, activism to stop violence and human rights abuse against women is on the rise worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed a resolution supporting reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, which strengthened criminal laws, established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and created grant programs to encourage comprehensive community response to violence against women across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services have awarded VAWA grants to support critical state and local programming and initiatives that benefit cities across the nation, such as hiring and training law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates and court personnel, creating specialized domestic violence police and prosecution units, providing shelter and services for victims of domestic violence, providing civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, funding community-based domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and training health care and social service professionals; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Women Mayors' Caucus include exploring issues of importance to cities and women leaders

of this country and forwarding appropriate policy recommendations to the Conference membership body as a whole,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors opposes violent crimes against women and strongly supports programs promoting comprehensive community responses, elements and tested strategies to eliminate violence against women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly supports full funding for Violence Against Women Act programs as well as efforts which support the abolition of international systematic cultural and state-sanctioned physical, sexual and psychological human rights abuse and oppression of women throughout the world.

**PROMOTING SAFE, SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR
PEOPLE LEAVING JAIL OR PRISON**

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 10 million persons will be released from city and county jails this year. In addition, more than 600,000 adults will be released from state and federal prisons this year to return to our communities. Currently one of every 75 men lived in prison or jail, and half of these inmates are incarcerated for a non-violent offense; and

WHEREAS, persons leaving jail or prison often lack not only the most basic needs of food, shelter and clothes, but job skills, training and placement as well as transitional housing and support services (such as substance abuse and mental health treatment). Further, many former detainees or prisoners are denied employment, educational assistance, TANF benefits, subsidized housing, parental rights, medical assistance and health care, driver's licenses, and the right to vote, to name a few. These barriers often prevent effective reintegration back into society; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds (67.5%) of local detainees and state prisoners will be rearrested within three years of their release from jail or prison, and half (52%) will be reincarcerated for either a new offense or a violation of the terms of their release if they do not receive these vital supports; continuing the cycle of crime and despair; and

WHEREAS, studies prove incarceration has high impact on the family. Children of prisoners have a 70% greater chance of following their parents into prison. The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates 1.5 million children in the U.S. had a parent in a state or federal prison in 1999 - an increase of 500,000 since 1991, and over 7 million children have a parent under some form of correctional supervision. Long term generational effects of a social structure in which imprisonment is the norm have significant outcomes on families; and

WHEREAS, the social costs of reentry have profound collateral consequences, including public health risks, homelessness, unemployment and public safety concerns. More than two thirds of the incarcerated population has a high rate of infectious disease, substance abuse and/or mental health disorders. Close to 27% of prisoners expect to go to homeless shelters upon release from prison, and 16% of the local jail population is

mentally ill. Recent data proves two thirds of all prisoners released return to the nation's core cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties across the nation are absorbing the economic cost of reentry. Without adequate support mechanisms, formerly incarcerated individuals are highly likely to reoffend, and the high recidivism rates have direct economic consequences. The average cost per day to house a federal or state inmate is \$69, or over \$25,000 a year. Likewise, the cost associated with housing an inmate per day in a local jail facility is \$59, or over \$21,00 a year. Significant portions of state and local government budgets are now invested in the criminal justice system. Costs associated with keeping people incarcerated in this country in 1999 alone neared \$147 billion. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, local governments contributed the most (51%) to criminal justice - almost \$75 billion in 1999. Lastly, prisons drain resources from colleges and universities, and leaders in higher education and the business community are beginning to question the societal implications of this allocation of resources; and

WHEREAS, city and county governments have received very limited federal or state assistance in providing adequate programming at the local level for non-violent mentally ill offenders who often end up inappropriately confined in city and county jails. Proper treatment, discharge planning, and continuity of medical care in the community have proven effective in helping foster successful reentry and prevent rearrest or reincarceration for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, President Bush has proposed a four-year, \$300 million initiative in his FY 2005 budget to reduce recidivism and the societal costs of reincarceration by helping inmates find work when returning to their communities harnessing the resources and experience of faith and community based organizations working through three federal departments which include the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Justice to provide job training and placement, transitional housing, and mentoring for prisoners returning back to society; and

WHEREAS, Representative Danny Davis (IL), Representative Mark Souder (IN) and others introduced H.R. 2166, The Public Safety Ex-Offender Self-Sufficiency Act of 2003, on May 20, 2003. The Public Safety Ex-Offender Self Sufficiency Acts amends the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to provide for a temporary ex-offender low-income housing tax credits to encourage the provision of housing, job training, and other essential services

to ex-offenders through a structured living environment designed to assist prisoners in becoming self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rob Portman (OH), Representative Danny Davis (IL), Representative Mark Souder (IN), and Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (IN) introduced a bipartisan bill called the Second Chance Act of 2004 on June 23, 2004. The Second Chance Act of 2004 is targeted to provide support for state and local reentry demonstration projects, encourages reentry coordination between and among different levels of government and non-governmental service providers, and calls for review of barriers faced by former prisoners. Overall, the proposal calls to increase public safety, strengthen families, prevent crime, restore victims, and reduce costs at the federal, state and local levels by reducing recidivism among individuals reentering society after imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, through its Mayors Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, held a summit on April 28, 2004 to discuss the issue of reentry into the nation's communities. This is the first in a series of forums and comprehensive strategies focused on coordinating the national efforts of the city officials, community and faith leaders, local law enforcement, probation, parole and prisons to facilitate and foster safe, successful reentry through the following recommendations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to more effectively integrate persons leaving jail or prison back into society, particularly efforts which promote job training and job placement; transitional housing fostering a continuum of care and holistic approach; mentoring for prisoners and children of prisoners; family reunification; life skills training and education; substance abuse, mental health treatment and voting rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports providing federal support to both state and local governments in a way that encourages and strengthens increased reentry coordination among state and local government agencies and non-governmental service providers, including faith and community-based providers, as well as providing transitional case managers to assist offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports establishing appropriate processes to ensure both state and local governments are on equal footing in developing collaborative partnerships at the state and local level on

reentry, including adequate representation and input of local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports exploring the elimination of counter-productive barriers which impede successful and safe reentry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to provide self-sufficiency to persons leaving jail or prison, such as the Public Safety Ex-Offender Self-Sufficiency Act and the Second Chance Act, and the efforts of the Mayors Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to inform, educate and train mayors, city-designated faith-based liaisons, and other public servants on how to best engage faith and community leaders, particularly focusing on efforts which target effective societal reentry and self-sufficiency for people leaving jail or prison; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will convene and spearhead a broader effort through its Mayors Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to create a National Reentry Consortium comprised of several national public interest groups, community advocacy associations, faith and religious leaders, city governments, universities and other experts representative of the Reentry field to do the following in a broad based national manner: 1) educational and media outreach; 2) technical assistance to help localities implement Best Practice models; 3) information exchange and dissemination; and 3) advocacy and policy outreach on reentry issues.

**EXPANSION OF FIRST RESPONDER DESIGNATION TO FRONT-LINE
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, all municipal agencies such as public works, transportation, water and sewer, parks and recreation, police and fire work in tandem on city streets on a daily basis across the nation to provide public services; and

WHEREAS, in the planning for emergency preparedness the designation of first responders has been limited to health and public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, with additional personnel designation, municipalities can become better equipped in the delivery and development of emergency response plans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has stated that major cities are considered high density threat targets for terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, various agencies, in addition to police and fire departments, would most likely be among the first to suffer, witness, or be impacted by a terrorist incident, and by virtue of their proximity, would be compelled to respond in a timely manner,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by The U.S. Conference of Mayors that the U.S. Congress should by law designate all municipal government agencies' front-line employees as first responders with the same status as that of police and firefighters for the purpose of being eligible to receive all related federal funding and training for emergency preparedness.

**SUPPORT OF THE REPORT FROM THE TASK FORCE ON STATE AND LOCAL
HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING**

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush came to the 72nd Winter Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors and pledged to help unstick the first responder funding that has been sent to the states; and

WHEREAS, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge soon after established a special Task Force on State and Local Homeland Security Funding which included representatives from the Conference of Mayors and the other "Big 7" state and local government organizations; and

WHEREAS, the DHS Task Force held numerous meetings and conference calls over the period of several months; and

WHEREAS, the DHS Task Force released its final report on June 17, and that report includes important recommendations including: an exemption from reimbursement provisions of the Cash Management Improvement Act; flexibility for overtime; funding for incremental operational costs such as the protection of critical infrastructure and major events identified as high-risk by DHS; an automated grant tracking system; and, establishment of deadlines for the obligation of grants from one level of local government to another; and

WHEREAS, most of these recommendations would require action by Congress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security's Task Force on State and Local Homeland Security Funding, and calls on Congress to include the recommended changes in the appropriate authorization and appropriations bills.

**OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED FUNDING CUTS IN FEDERAL
HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, in the days following the attacks of September 11, 2001, The U.S. Conference of Mayors called for a federal block grant that would provide homeland security funding directly to cities to help meet local needs for police and fire overtime, personnel training, communications and rescue equipment, and security measures to protect airports, ports, utilities, public transit, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, nearly a year-and-a-half later the Congress enacted appropriations bills that funded several state and local homeland security programs, establishing the First Responder Grant program and providing more than \$2 billion through the State Domestic Preparedness and Federal First Responder/Critical Infrastructure programs; and

WHEREAS, for the current fiscal year, Congress has provided \$1.7 billion for First Responder Grants and \$500 million for Homeland Security Law Enforcement grants; and

WHEREAS, in his FY 2005 budget submission the President proposed to reduce funding for First Responder grants by \$1 billion, to \$700 million, and to fund at the same level, \$500 million, Homeland Security Law Enforcement grants; and

WHEREAS, homeland security appropriations are currently under consideration in both the House and the Senate; and

WHEREAS, several recent reports, the most recent being The U.S. Conference of Mayors Interoperability Survey, have documented the continuing critical need for federal funding to support our first responders,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes cuts in federal homeland security assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide a funding level for federal first responder programs that does not drop below the level provided for the current fiscal year.

**INCREASE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AND EXPAND
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, access to high quality, safe and enriching after-school and out-of-school programs for children and youth continues to be a priority for mayors; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs promote cognitive learning, enhances the physical, social, emotional and moral development of youth, and provides a means to reduce the risk of youth involvement in crime, violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and gangs; and

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible, and high quality after-school and out-of-school programs are necessary if we are to achieve the goals of No Child Left Behind; and

WHEREAS, 91 percent of parents with children in after-school programs are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the programs and thus significant public support; and

WHEREAS, 14.3 million Kindergarten through 12th graders take care of themselves after the school day ends which translates to 1 in 4 school-age children being unsupervised; and

WHEREAS, only 6.5 million children or 11 percent of the nation's youth are enrolled in after-school programs which is only 1 in 9 students enrolled in grades K-12; and

WHEREAS, parents of another 15.3 million or 30 percent of the children say they would have their child participate if there was a program available,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase the level of funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to its authorized level of \$2 billion in fiscal year 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors across the country to sign on as a

partner with the *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to increase funding and participation in these programs, and that all children have an opportunity to participate by the year 2010.

QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL

WHEREAS, access to quality early learning opportunities for all children, from infancy to 5 years-old, can only be accomplished through a strong partnership of parents, early childhood advocates, educators, policy makers, private and faith-based providers, community and business leaders, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the school readiness problem that exists in K-12 education affects children of every income, cultural, language, disability and social background; and

WHEREAS, repeating grades, rising remedial training, and struggling students are common symptoms of the growing school readiness problem in K-12; and

WHEREAS, there can be a greater impact on later academic success by providing quality pre-kindergarten education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, only 50 percent of our nation's three and four-year olds are enrolled in high quality pre-kindergarten programs; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that pre-kindergarten education (usually 3 and 4 year-olds) increases educational success and adult productivity including increasing cognitive abilities and achievement, improves social behavior, increases educational attainment, and increases employment, earnings and tax revenue as well as decreases the costs of government for schooling, social services, crime and health care; and

WHEREAS, results from one of the major pre-school studies indicates that those, who where enrolled in a quality pre-school program, when at the age of 27 were three times more likely to own their own home, twice as likely never to be on welfare, four times more likely t/o be earning more than \$2,000 per month, and have half as many arrests as those who did not participate; and

WHEREAS, nearly 90 percent of the nation's voters support the view that there needs to be governmental support for pre-school programs so that all parents can afford to enroll their children in high quality programs; and

WHEREAS, pre-kindergarten programs are being included as part of court decisions involving state education funding adequacy cases; and

WHEREAS, lack of access to quality pre-kindergarten programs results in lost economic growth to cities, lower worker productivity, and increased costs to government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal and state governments to establish policies and funding to assist in the funding of quality pre-school education programs for all children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on increased funding for Head Start to expand the number of children who can participate and increase the salaries paid to the program's teachers and aides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the funding of programs at the state and federal level to help educate, train and retain good preschool programs and staff, including support for higher education and better compensation so staff remain in the field of early childhood education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports quality pre-kindergarten education programs for all as a common standard for every child throughout the United States.

**REFORMING AMERICA'S HIGH SCHOOLS:
ALIGNMENT OF STANDARDS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, no state can currently claim that every student who earns a high school diploma is academically prepared for post-secondary education and the world of work; and

WHEREAS, nearly half the states require high school students to pass exit exams that assess 8th and 9th grade content rather than measuring skills needed to prepare students to take college credit courses or do high-performance, high growth jobs which do not measure what reflects real world demands of colleges or employers; and

WHEREAS, at least 28 percent of high school graduates who enter two and four-year colleges immediately take remedial courses in English and math, and college transcripts indicate that 53 percent of students take at least one remedial math or English course, and the percentages are significantly higher for poor and minority students; and

WHEREAS, a majority of high school graduates who enter college, fewer than half leave with a degree and the numbers are significantly fewer for African-American and Hispanic students; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of employers rate high school graduates' skills in grammar, spelling, writing and basic math as only fair or poor; and

WHEREAS, too few high school students take challenging courses nor do they take courses in appropriate sequences to build the necessary skills and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the academic standards that have been developed by states over the past ten to fifteen years reflect a consensus among individual discipline experts as to what is desirable for students to learn and skills to acquire, yet they are a first generation of standards that have not been updated for demands of colleges and the world of work for the 21st century,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government include in the requirements of No Child Left Behind and other related legislation as it influences the establishment of state standards that standards be aligned with the knowledge and

skills expected by colleges and employers if high school graduates are to succeed, and colleges and employers need to honor and reward student achievement by using performance data in admissions, placement and hiring decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for all students to be held to the same standards, using the same measures, regardless of whether students are in traditional, charter, theme-based or alternative public or private schools, or are home-schooled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the federal government to take several steps to provide influence and support such as providing student financial aid incentives for high school students who take a college or workplace readiness curriculum, provide resources to states and local school systems through legislation to align high school standards, assessments and graduation requirements with knowledge and skills necessary for post-secondary education and work; require through the Higher Education Act data on numbers of students taking remedial courses and degree completion; and utilize its influence in changing the course requirements for graduation, and the opportunities and environments in which high school students learn to better prepare them for college and/or employment.

EQUITY AND ADEQUACY IN EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, more than half of the states in this nation have had law suits filed on the inequity of state school funding formulas and the adequacy of funding within school districts, and a significant number of court decisions have found funding disparities requiring more equitable funding plans; and

WHEREAS, each state's constitution uniquely describes its responsibility to guarantee and provide an adequate public education for every child; and

WHEREAS, many of the disparities in education that stem from unequal funding and have been exposed by standards-based reforms, new assessments and accountability requirements, and performance standards established by the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, the need to increase resources for students to meet these standards and this is more challenging in cities due to diverse demographics; and

WHEREAS, recent research findings indicate that disadvantaged students require more resources than previously determined to meet the standards and assessment levels; and

WHEREAS, current financial formulas lack enough dollars to help disadvantaged students reach or exceed the standards; and

WHEREAS, in the last few months courts in at least three states (Montana, Massachusetts and Kansas) have cited results in state education tests as evidence that state legislatures are not providing an adequate education for all,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges state legislatures to step up and appropriate enough resources to enable all students to meet the standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on school districts to equalize funding and resources within the district to accomplish equity and adequacy of funding for schools with significant numbers of

low-income students so they, too, can be successful and meet the standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to work with state legislatures and school systems to assist in determining funding and other resource solutions to make education funding systems within a state equitable and adequate, and therefore increase the opportunity for all students to meet the standards and achieve success.

**INCREASE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND
SCHOOLS AS CENTERS OF COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, a majority of school buildings in this nation are more than 50 years old which is the intended life span of these facilities, and many buildings in cities are significantly older than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, nationally school enrollment has increased 19 percent since the fall of 1988, and is expected to continue to increase at a rate of 5 percent between 2001 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 more than \$48 billion was expended on new school construction, additions and modernization, and it is anticipated that more will be spent over the next several years to address the increases in enrollment; and

WHEREAS, currently most school facilities do not meet current education programmatic demands and the needs of the changing student population; and

WHEREAS, most school buildings today do not adequately address environmental issues such energy efficiency, adequate ventilation, acoustics, and humidity control; and

WHEREAS, schools are often not designed with the intent to be used by the whole community or strategically as a community resource open to use by the public; and

WHEREAS, new school buildings need to be developed and designed with community involvement, and for joint use to include whenever possible additional services related to education, especially those administered by the city; and

WHEREAS, school construction and education are key engines to the economic development of our cities and revitalization of inner city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the demand for school construction is not only in the high growth states in the southwest and west but also in the east and mid-west where many schools need to be modernized or renovated; and

WHEREAS, the cost of school construction is a significant

capital outlay for most cities during very tight budgetary times; and

WHEREAS, currently there is only one federal program that provides financial assistance for school repair, renovation and modernization, not new construction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to introduce and pass legislation that would assist in school construction in cities and school systems by financing the interest on the school construction bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to extend and improve the authorization of Qualified Zone Academy Bonds which are used to assist in financing school renovation and repair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages mayors and school systems in our cities to use the community engagement process when developing designs and placement for new schools, and plans for school renovation and modernization, and be aware of the need to make schools a community resource that provide services to the whole community and are a critical part of the revitalization of neighborhoods, therefore, making our schools centers of community accessible to all citizens for a variety of needs and services.

**BEATING THE SUMMER LEARNING LOSS:
URBAN SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, all young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer and students score lower on standardized tests at the end of the summer than they did on the same tests at the beginning of summer vacation; and

WHEREAS, students on average lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months regardless of socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, low-income children and youth experience greater summer learning losses than their higher income peers; and

WHEREAS, summer learning loss contributes to the achievement gap in reading performance between lower and higher income children and youth, and these are most prevalent during the elementary school grades; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of students who qualify for federally subsidized meals do not have the same level of access to nutritious meals during the summer as they do during the school year which translates to more than 3 million of the 15.3 million children who receive free or reduced lunch during the school year; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of summer school programs are "remedial" targeting only students who were not on grade level and these programs are typically intermittent interventions rather than substantive programs to assist students in improving on their basic reading and math no matter what their status; and

WHEREAS, mayors manage most summer recreational programs that have little connection or coordination with the school system's summer school, but could be used as focused out-of-school time that includes both academic and recreational experiences; and

WHEREAS, several cities have begun to make the connection and develop comprehensive programs for elementary school learners focused on building reading skills, and pre-kindergarten programs are being included as part of court decisions involving state education funding adequacy cases; and

WHEREAS, research results in several summer programs that integrate reading instruction and tutoring along with other activities, show significant reading score gains for participating children compared to students who did not attend the summer intervention; and

WHEREAS, if policymakers are serious about improving excellence and equity in public education, social science research suggests that high-quality summer programs that include reading, academic enrichment, and where appropriate work experience must become a significant and central component in school reform,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges federal and state governments to establish policies and programs to assist in high-quality summer enrichment experiences, and make appropriations available to assist in the funding of high-quality summer enrichment and camp programs for all children and youth throughout their education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to take a leadership role in forming partnerships to improve collaboration and leveraging of funds and resources (such as Scholastic, Reading Is Fundamental, First Book, Houghton Mifflin, and Book It!) from multiple sources to ensure greater levels of access to programs for all children, but especially those most adversely affected by summer learning losses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes these summer reading and other academic programs must maintain high standards and expectations for the participating children and use as models other successful programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports high-quality summer learning that should be community-wide and become a partnership of public agencies, community-based organizations, cultural institutions, school systems, and colleges and universities to ensure the highest quality and quantity of learning opportunities for all young people, especially those most affected by the achievement gap.

**IMPROVING THE PREPARATION, RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION AND RETENTION
OF TEACHERS IN URBAN SCHOOL SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, at the end of the current 2003-2004 school year over 200,000 teachers, nearly 7 percent of the 3 million non-retiring teaching workforce, will leave the profession and not return in the fall, and the rate of teacher attrition is 50 percent higher in high-poverty schools than wealthier schools; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all new teachers quit within five years which is one out of every two new teachers leaving the profession and about 14 percent of beginning teachers quit in their first year; and

WHEREAS, the United States must add approximately 240,000 teachers each year to adequately meet the needs and demands of teacher attrition and retirement, rising student enrollment, and the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; and

WHEREAS, the conservative cost estimates for school systems to replace teachers who drop out of the profession is more than \$2.6 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, developing and retaining teachers is a national equity impact on student learning, and every student deserves an effective, high-quality professional if they are to reach the high standards we expect them to achieve; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive high-quality induction (professional development, training and assessment during at least the first two years of full-time teaching) costs roughly \$4,000 per new teacher annually, it has been shown that this process provides a return on investment of about 37 percent by reducing new teacher attrition, improving the quality of teaching, and raising student achievement and only about 1 percent of new beginning receive comprehensive induction; and

WHEREAS, most teacher preparation programs in colleges and universities do not provide a significant number of learning experiences in schools and communities during a four or five-year program nor do many focus on preparing beginning teachers for urban assignments; and

WHEREAS, the majority of teacher preparation programs at colleges and universities do not integrate course work from the variety of disciplines offered by arts and sciences, education and other appropriate schools or departments to maximize the institution's resources for this preparation process; and

WHEREAS, individuals who decide to take the alternative certification route to teaching must also have comparable experiences to be prepared for the classroom as well as being enrolled in an ongoing induction program that includes master teacher mentoring to be equipped to handle the educational needs of students; and

WHEREAS, research shows that new teachers require between 3 and 7 years to fully develop their skills to a level that consistently impacts student learning and achievement, and more rapidly develop skills and more effectively teach if they participate in a comprehensive induction program; and

WHEREAS, high-quality induction programs will increase teacher retention and develops new teachers by including structured mentoring, common planning time, intensive professional development, participation in a teacher network outside of the school in which they are teaching, and a standards-based assessment and evaluation of every beginning teacher; and

WHEREAS, mayors should have a role in the preparation, recruitment, induction and retention of teachers as part of the economic development and revitalization strategy for their city because education is a critical building block to the future vitality and survival of our cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors should take a leadership role in organizing the key stakeholders who must participate in a partnership that provides the resources to establish effective high-quality teacher preparation, recruitment, induction and retention programs within their city's urban school system(s),

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to become more active in the processes that influence the preparation, recruitment, induction and retention of teachers in their city's schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages urban school systems to use funds from Title II

of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (now the No Child Left Behind Act) to provide comprehensive induction to all beginning teachers during at least their first two years of teaching; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests that Congress as part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) amend Title II of the law to require all partnership grant recipients (postsecondary institutions and school districts) to include in comprehensive induction the quality criteria mentioned above, and over and above the current grant funding for retention and professional development of K-12 teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly recommends that policies and programs need to be put into place or enhanced at the federal, state and local levels that provide incentives for individuals to enter and remain in the teaching and education profession, especially from pre-kindergarten through high school. These might include forgiveness of student loans, housing benefits or subsidies, tax credits or deductions, community retail discounts, childcare subsidies, and local banking privileges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests the Congress to provide the new funding required to ensure that every new teacher in our nation's highest need schools receives the support and training, and has quality work conditions necessary to continue to teach in our urban schools.

Projected Cost: Roughly \$2 billion is the cost for implementing a comprehensive induction program nationally which includes an approximate increase in the federal education dollars of \$500 million targeted to new teacher induction for our highest need schools. The rest would be state and local funding.

PROHIBITING LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR MTBE MANUFACTURERS

WHEREAS, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) is a synthetic chemical used as an octane enhancer, lead substitute and more recently a vehicle emission reduction additive to gasoline in the United States since the late 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required urban areas in nonattainment for ozone to begin selling reformulated gasolines (RFG) designed to reduce emissions beginning in 1995. A main component of RFG is oxygen, which is added to gasoline primarily by two oxygenates -- MTBE and ethanol; and

WHEREAS, MTBE has contaminated large quantities of surface and ground water by releasing MTBE through leaking underground storage tanks and pipelines; and

WHEREAS, one cup of MTBE, the amount found in one gallon of gasoline oxygenated with MTBE, can contaminate an entire 5 million gallon well to the point of being undrinkable; and

WHEREAS, many states have banned MTBE or plan to phase it out due to water pollution concerns; and

WHEREAS, current remediation techniques to clean water contaminated with MTBE are both inadequate and extremely expensive; and

WHEREAS, a study by a California environmental engineering firm estimated it would cost \$29 billion to clean up the 500 public drinking-water wells and 45,000 private wells across the country contaminated with MTBE in addition to the approximately 140,000 underground storage tanks still leaking gasoline containing the additive; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives adopted the Energy Policy Act of 2003, (H.R. 4503) granting liability protection to MTBE manufacturers thereby potentially shifting the burden and cost of clean up to local governments; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive energy bill (S. 2095) currently stalled in the U. S. Senate does not contain language that provides the producers of MTBE liability protection; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives leadership has pledged to include MTBE liability protection language in any energy bill that emerges from a House-Senate energy conference committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its strong opposition to provisions in the House energy bill (H.R. 4503) or any other legislative vehicle that would provide producers of MTBE with product liability immunity (Asafe harbor@); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to not to provide this liability protection for MTBE manufacturers.

**SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION BENEFITS
OF WASTE-TO-ENERGY AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

WHEREAS, many local communities and municipalities have adopted an integrated waste management approach that includes development and operation of renewable energy technologies such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas; and

WHEREAS, each community should strive to ensure safe disposal of solid waste and generation of electricity for its residents from clean energy sources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas provide a number of environmental benefits including utilization of indigenous natural resources, reduced dependence on imported foreign energy supply, increasing domestic fuel diversity, and significant reduction in the potential for release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other experts in the field of greenhouse gas emissions have studied waste-to-energy's ability to avoid the release of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and found that facilities nationwide annually avoid the release into the atmosphere of more than 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide or its equivalent, a potent greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Congress, and many states, counties, and local governments are considering the adoption of policy, legislation, and regulations to quantify the reduction or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions from various technologies and management methods, and in some cases assign greenhouse gas credits for the reduction or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions emitted into the atmosphere,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the significant contribution provided by waste-to-energy and electricity produced by landfill gas in avoiding the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Congress, states, counties and local governments to

quantify the amount of greenhouse gas emissions avoided by the use of waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency methodology or similar method, and to grant these technologies the same incentives as provided in policy, legislation and regulation to other technologies or methods that reduce or avoid release of greenhouse gases.

RISING FUEL COSTS AND AFFORDABLE NATURAL GAS

WHEREAS, the nation is facing higher fuel and natural gas prices; and

WHEREAS, the recent rise in fuel and natural gas prices have had a major impact upon consumers and the economy as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the prolonged high price of fuel and natural gas will further impact our national economy and its recovery; and

WHEREAS, high natural gas prices over the last few years have increased consumers energy bills and are more than double their 1990 levels,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby express its deep concern of the ever increasing price escalation of fuel and natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass national energy policy that ensures consumers have access to affordable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Department Of Energy to examine various methods and tools that can be used to help consumers mitigate the impact of higher prices for fuel and natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that our nation=s future electricity needs cannot be met almost exclusively with natural gas, but must be a reasonable combination of efforts that include energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, nuclear energy and clean coal technology.

**SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE WEATHERIZATION ENERGY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, on average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 31% and energy bills by \$250.00 per year; and

WHEREAS, weatherization benefits our nation by reducing our energy dependency, improving the environment, and stimulating economic development in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, high energy costs during peak heating and cooling seasons create an unmanageable burden for low-income families, who spend an average of 14 percent of their annual income on energy costs, while other households spend only about 3.5 percent; and

WHEREAS, weatherization helps low-income families achieve a higher level of financial stability by reducing their energy costs and freeing limited resources for other uses; and

WHEREAS, increasing the energy efficiency of homes and apartment buildings will result in a decrease of the occupant's energy costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass energy legislation that fully and adequately funds the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program.

**SUPPORTING A GENERATOR'S TITLE TO RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS AND
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS PRODUCED FROM THE GENERATION FROM
RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

WHEREAS, many local communities and municipalities have adopted an integrated waste management approach that includes development and operation of renewable energy technologies such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas; and

WHEREAS, each community should strive to ensure safe disposal of solid waste and electricity for its residents from clean energy sources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas provide a number of environmental benefits including utilization of indigenous natural resources, reduced dependence on imported foreign energy supply, increasing domestic fuel diversity, and significant reduction in the potential for release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors fully recognizes the renewable and other environmental attributes of the generation of power by waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, and many states have adopted or are considering adoption of laws that establish renewable energy credits in recognition of the sustainable, indigenous and clean energy production associated with generating electricity from municipal solid waste that may be traded in renewable marketplace; and

WHEREAS, communities with waste-to-energy facilities benefit from the sale of electricity produced by municipal solid waste by receiving lower disposal costs and by sharing directly in the revenues generated by the sale of electricity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the significant contribution provided by waste-to-energy and electricity produced by landfill gas in meeting the demand for renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Congress, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Service Commissions and states to recognize that the waste-to-energy generator has legal title to the renewable energy credits unless otherwise stated in contract between the generator and the buyer of renewable power.

**SUPPORT FOR INCENTIVES FOR UTILITY DEVELOPERS OF CLEAN,
TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, encouraging the cost-effective use of renewable energy resources has been an important national goal since the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and the generation of electricity from renewable energy has steadily increased its cost-effectiveness and performance since that time; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy contributes to fuel diversity, which benefits and mitigates fuel price volatility by reducing dependence on natural gas, enhances national security by reducing dependence on imported fuels, and decreases environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, in light of the need to further diversify our fuel sources and meet clean air objectives, Congress and the Administration are seeking to promote increased production from cleaner and renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed conference report to the Energy Policy Act of 2003 and S. 2095 include tax incentives for clean coal and renewable energy production, and reauthorization of the Renewable Energy Production Incentive or REPI program; and

WHEREAS, historically, tax incentives for renewable and alternative energy have been made available only to privately-owned utilities and developers, but not for public power utilities; and

WHEREAS, The Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program, enacted in 1992, was intended to provide incentives to public power systems comparable to tax incentives that the private sector receives; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (EPI) program's authorization has expired,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors acknowledges the value of production tax credit to the continued development and commercialization of renewable energy technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to provide

incentives to all electricity providers necessary to promote a diverse mix of domestic energy fuel sources, including wind, solar, biomass, landfill gas, geothermal, incremental hydropower, fuel cells, clean coal, nuclear energy and other energy sources; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide new generation from alternative resources, not-for-profit public power systems need comparable incentives, such as the ability to issue bonds at interest rates lower than tax-exempt rates through a tax credit bond, the ability to sell tax benefits to taxpayers through a tradable tax credit, or other mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, public power customers, like those served by privately-owned utility, can benefit from federal incentives to spur power production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the REPI programs.

MANDATORY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, all functions of the nation=s economy rely on our energy infrastructure, and disruptions have a measurable impact on the economy; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2003, areas in the Midwest and Northeast experienced an electric power blackout; and

WHEREAS, the power outage affected an area with an estimated 50 million people in states of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, estimates of total costs in the United States range between \$4 billion and \$10 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. electricity transmission system, which was built over the past several decades, is an extensive, interconnected network of high-voltage power lines that transport electricity from generators to consumers; and

WHEREAS, the reliability of the interconnected power grid is critical to the nation=s economy and security,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass national energy policy that will ensure our electric transmission system will continue to meet the nation=s need for reliable and affordable electricity in the 21st century; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass national energy policy that includes mandatory and enforceable national reliability standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress and the Administration to upgrade and enhance, in partnership with state and local governments and energy service providers, our national transmission system to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of energy to meet projected demand for electricity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adequately fund research and development into new technologies that would improve the

capacity, flexibility, and efficiency of our nations
electric transmission system.

PROMOTING DOMESTIC SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States is currently importing more than 55 percent of the petroleum 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 fire American steel mills with the 6 million tons of steel necessary to build this pipeline; and

WHEREAS, an Alaska gas pipeline would deliver 4.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to American homes and factories, almost 7 percent of domestic gas consumption at current rates, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States 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 United States 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to pass legislation providing incentives for construction of an Alaska natural gas pipeline, whose construction costs are estimated at \$20 billion.

MAYORS' GUIDE TO WATER AND WASTEWATER PARTNERSHIP SERVICE AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Urban Water Council recognizes that federal government estimates place the need for investment in existing and new water and wastewater infrastructure at more than \$550 billion just to comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Urban Water Council has examined the need for water and wastewater infrastructure investment and has determined that local government currently provides 90% of the investment in water and wastewater infrastructure annually; and

WHEREAS, local government normally finances water and wastewater infrastructure investments via municipal/revenue bonds, and that competition for infrastructure bonds for other uses are competitive and effectively limit the amount that can be directed towards water and wastewater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Water Council has urged Congress to eliminate state volume caps for Private Activity Bonds (PABs) used for water and sewer projects; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Water Council encourages Cities to consider the benefits of public-private partnerships in water and wastewater infrastructure (including public-private partnerships in the form of contract operations, design-build-operate arrangements, build-own-operate arrangements, or other appropriate arrangements) as a way to save money, to ensure adequate water supplies, to achieve compliance with environmental rules, enhance water service provision and to maintain and improve water and wastewater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Local government experience in arranging long-term water and wastewater partnerships has grown and making informed decisions about partnership contract terms and conditions is important to protect the public partner, ratepayers and infrastructure asset, as well as the private party and infrastructure operator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that Mayors considering water partnerships review and consider use of the Urban Water

Council Report- Mayors' Guide to Water and Wastewater
Partnership Service Agreements.

**INCREASING INVESTMENT FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
THROUGH REMOVAL OF PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS FROM THE STATE VOLUME
CAP**

WHEREAS, the projected costs for capital improvement and projects in water and wastewater infrastructure are projected to exceed \$1 trillion over the next 20 years in order to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted policy in the year 2000 in Seattle to seek out innovative ways to help cities finance the construction of new water and wastewater treatment facilities, collection systems and distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Water Council has reviewed federal impediments to financing water and wastewater infrastructure including existing environmental and tax policy, and

WHEREAS, the Urban Water Council adopted a resolution to support similar legislation in June of 2001 that would exempt Private Activity Bonds for water and sewage facilities from the state volume caps, but that legislation is no longer under consideration by congress, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby endorses and urges Members of Congress to support legislation which would exempt Private Activity Bonds for water and sewage facilities from the state volume caps in order to increase investment in water and wastewater supply infrastructure.

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"; and

WHEREAS, sustainable development integrates the principles of economic development, environmental protection, social equity and education; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to improve public health and a better quality of life for all its residents by limiting waste, preventing pollution, maximizing conservation, promoting efficiency, and developing local resources to revitalize the local economy; and

WHEREAS, elements that make up a sustainable community include the following:

- establishing open spaces and wildlife conservation zones in order to maintain biodiversity and adequate recreation space for residents;
- promoting mixed-use development in areas where low to zero polluting transportation modes like mass transit, pedestrian and bicycling are easily accessible;
- operating municipal fleets that use clean-burning fuels;
- establishing procurement practices to encourage the purchase of reusable or recycled products;
- maintaining housing stock that meets diverse income levels;
- encouraging locally-owned businesses, including minority and women-owned businesses; and
- engaging and encouraging all members of the public to assist in the decision-making process of the community; and

WHEREAS, many communities have promoted sustainable development guidelines and concepts in their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Mayors and their cities to adopt sustainable development practices in their own communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors encourages the federal and state governments to establish policy, programs, and resources that promote the concepts and principles of sustainable communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that businesses should be encouraged through regulatory incentives or marketing assistance to become stewards for the environment and to conduct their activities with the principles of sustainable development in mind.

**SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION BENEFITS
OF WASTE-TO-ENERGY AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

WHEREAS, many local communities and municipalities have adopted an integrated waste management approach that includes development and operation of renewable energy technologies such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas; and

WHEREAS, each community should strive to ensure safe disposal of solid waste and electricity for its residents from clean energy sources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources such as waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas provide a number of environmental benefits including utilization of indigenous natural resources, reduced dependence on imported foreign energy supply, increasing domestic fuel diversity, and significant reduction in the potential for release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other experts in the field of greenhouse gas emissions have studied waste-to-energy's ability to avoid the release of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and found that facilities nationwide annually avoid the release into the atmosphere of more than 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide or its equivalent, a potent greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Congress, and many states, counties, and local governments are considering the adoption of policy, legislation, and regulations to quantify the reduction or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions from various technologies and management methods, and in some cases assign greenhouse gas credits for the reduction or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions emitted into the atmosphere,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the significant contribution provided by waste-to-energy and electricity produced by landfill gas in avoiding the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Congress, states, counties and local governments to

quantify the amount of greenhouse gas emissions avoided by the use of waste-to-energy and electricity produced from landfill gas using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency methodology or similar method, and to grant these technologies the same incentives as provided in policy, legislation and regulation to other technologies or methods that reduce or avoid release of greenhouse gases.

PROHIBITING LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR MTBE MANUFACTURERS

WHEREAS, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) is a synthetic chemical used as an octane enhancer, lead substitute and more recently a vehicle emission reduction additive to gasoline in the United States since the late 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required urban areas in nonattainment for ozone to begin selling reformulated gasolines (RFG) designed to reduce emissions beginning in 1995. A main component of RFG is oxygen, which is added to gasoline primarily by two oxygenates -- MTBE and ethanol; and

WHEREAS, MTBE has contaminated large quantities of surface and ground water by releasing MTBE through leaking underground storage tanks and pipelines; and

WHEREAS, one cup of MTBE, the amount found in one gallon of gasoline oxygenated with MTBE, can contaminate an entire 5 million gallon well to the point of being undrinkable; and

WHEREAS, many states have banned MTBE or plan to phase it out due to water pollution concerns; and

WHEREAS, current remediation techniques to clean water contaminated with MTBE are both inadequate and extremely expensive; and

WHEREAS, a study by a California environmental engineering firm estimated it would cost \$29 billion to clean up the 500 public drinking-water wells and 45,000 private wells across the country contaminated with MTBE in addition to the approximately 140,000 underground storage tanks still leaking gasoline containing the additive; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives adopted the Energy Policy Act of 2003, (H.R. 6) granting liability protection to MTBE manufacturers thereby potentially shifting the burden and cost of clean up to local governments; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive energy bill (S. 2095) currently stalled in the U. S. Senate does not contain language that provides the producers of MTBE liability protection; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives leadership has pledged to include MTBE liability protection language in any energy bill that emerges from a House-Senate energy conference committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its strong opposition to provisions in the House energy bill (H.R. 6) or any other legislative vehicle that would provide producers of MTBE with product liability immunity ("safe harbor"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to not to provide this liability protection for MTBE manufacturers.

INCREASING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR SUPERFUND

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency has developed plans, designs, and records of decision for the remediation of large hazardous waste sites, many of them located in or near urban areas; and

WHEREAS, such plans, designs, and records of decision were developed at great cost and over many years, in close consultation with local and state governments; and

WHEREAS, EPA and its state and local partners have fielded teams capable of remediating such sites; and

WHEREAS, because of inadequate funding, actual performance of the agreed upon remedies has been put on hold, or slowed down; and

WHEREAS, because of inadequate funding some large sites, such as New Bedford Harbor, in New Bedford, MA, have been put on a 26 year cleanup schedule; and

WHEREAS, such a stretched out remediation is likely to greatly increase the ultimate cost of cleanup to the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, such a stretched out or delayed cleanup schedule is likely to undermine the feasibility of selected remedies, necessitating a new and expensive planning and design process in the future; and

WHEREAS, such delays perpetuate the public health and environmental threat posed by such sites; and

WHEREAS, delays in cleanup impose severe obstacles to economic development in many cities; and

WHEREAS, the money needs of many of the largest sites, which have been in the system for many years, have created a blockage in the system, interfering with EPA's ability to list new sites or to perform remedies at smaller sites; and

WHEREAS, the problems presented by large sites that are ready for construction can be resolved through an increase in appropriations for Superfund of \$300 million a year for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, such an increase would actually reduce the cost of the Superfund program over time, and confer significant public health, environmental and economic benefits on many American cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to increase the appropriation for Superfund by \$300 million a year for the next five years, and to dedicate such increase to financing actual cleanup at ready to go sites.

**EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
AS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE US-VISIT PROGRAM (AT BORDER
CITIES AND BORDER PORTS OF ENTRY)**

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2003, Tom Ridge, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security announced the creation of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator (US-VISIT) Program, previously known as the Entry-Exit System (EES); and that the program would be directed to the Under Secretary for Border Transportation and Security, Asa Hutchinson; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has stated that the goal of US-VISIT is to enhance the security of the United States without slowing the system for legitimate visitors, and on this latter aspect of the department's aim on which border cities such as the Laredo and Detroit, MI seek essential assurances; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors fears that when this program is implemented it may have detrimental, and even deleterious effects on all border cities and by extension and implication, the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mayors recognize the importance to our homeland security efforts to collecting necessary information regarding visitors who temporarily enter our country; Mayors want to make certain that the Department fully recognizes and appreciates the unique challenges facing the border communities. Hundreds of thousands of crossings take place daily at Texas-Mexico bridges and U.S.-Canadian borders, as Americans, Canadians and Mexicans visit family and friends, shop and go sight seeing, and participate in the thriving trade between our nations that is the legacy of NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, the entire nation benefits from these exchanges, but border communities in particular are dependent on the rapid movement of travelers and commerce to sustain their economies. Unfortunately, wait times during heavy traffic can already last several hours, and many are concerned that a poorly designed entry/exit system might cause even longer delays. For this reason, it is essential that a comprehensive, detailed plan be revealed soon, so that it may be thoroughly vetted by all interested parties well before US VISIT is implemented at our borders; and

WHEREAS, the Conference appreciates the May 7 statement of DHS Assistant Secretary Asa Hutchinson that "our borders and ports are not just 'openings' to be secured. They are economic doors that must remain open. We must always keep both goals in mind", and agrees with Secretary Hutchinson's statement, and looks forward to continuing to work with him to achieve an entry-exit tracking system that meets our dual goals of protecting the American people and facilitating the legitimate traffic and trade that is so important to states and our nation's economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the United States Conference of Mayors that the Conference is concerned with the manner in which US-VISIT is implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Conference requests that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his designees, consult with the Border Cities as to the manner of its implementation and as to ways in which the current system for persons crossing between the United States, Mexico and Canada may be maintained and enhanced rather than fettered and set back.

**SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA) AND FOR THE U.S.-SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS
UNION (SACU) FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, in the past year, the implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has continued to strengthen the United States' trade and economic relationship with the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, the African Growth and Opportunity Act is a cornerstone of the effort by the Administration to promote free markets, expand U.S.-African trade and investment, stimulate economic growth, and facilitate sub-Saharan Africa's integration into the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the African Growth and Opportunity Act continues to foster new trading opportunities and investment, create new jobs, and promote economic development, while both supporting the efforts of sub-Saharan African nations undertaking difficult economic, political, and social reforms and providing incentives for countries considering such reforms; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act continues to help sub-Saharan Africa address the challenges of debt relief, poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, to further these goals and encourage long-term development in the region, the U.S. has embarked on negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) to spur U.S. economic growth and job creation as well as to improve living standards, eradicate poverty, and encourage economic development, the rule of law, and transparency in sub-Saharan African countries; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported trade agreements with countries around the world in order to further such economic growth and development goals and to benefit the dynamic economies of U.S. cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to extend AGOA's authorization and

its special third-country fabric provision, which includes enhancement of AGOA-related technical assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Conference of Mayors supports U.S. efforts to conclude a strong U.S.-SACU Free Trade Agreement, which has the potential to bolster U.S.-sub-Saharan trade and investment relations while strengthening the economy of sub-Saharan African nations.

**COMMENDATION OF U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PAST PRESIDENT AND
FORMER MAYOR OF KNOXVILLE VICTOR ASHE ON HIS CONFIRMATION AS
AMBASSADOR TO POLAND**

WHEREAS, as Mayor of Knoxville, Victor Ashe served his city with great distinction for sixteen years, concentrating on improving the city's financial condition, making sure that city neighborhoods were clean and safe, developing new and innovative ways to deliver essential public services while maintaining a level tax rate, and developing new parks and greenways; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 and 1995, Victor Ashe served as an outstanding President of the Conference of Mayors, leading the battle against unfunded federal mandates, resulting in passage of a mandate relief bill which was signed into law by the President in March, 1995; and

WHEREAS, when Mayor Ashe hosted the Conference of Mayors Leadership Meeting in Knoxville, he ensured that mayors had the opportunity to view best practices and model programs, including the significant role of the fine arts and parks and green spaces in contributing to the livability of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ashe participated in the U. S. Conference of Mayors Mission to Africa in September 2003, led by President James A. Garner of Hempstead, the largest international mission in the history of the Conference of Mayors, and Mayor Ashe led the delegation of mayors that visited Uganda to learn from and share experiences with Uganda mayors on the challenges of HIV/AIDS to that nation and the continent of Africa; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as Mayor of Knoxville, Mayor Ashe's active participation in the Conference of Mayors contributed greatly to the programs, committees, and policies of the organization, sustaining the Conference's role as a major and powerful national advocate for cities and suburbs and the people who live in them; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate has confirmed the nomination of Victor Ashe by the President of the United States George W. Bush to be U.S. Ambassador to Poland, a post in which he will begin serving in mid-July 2004,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U. S. Conference of Mayors assembled in this, the 72nd Annual Conference of Mayors in Boston, offers its most heartfelt and sincere congratulations to Ambassador Victor Ashe, his wife Joan, and their children, and conveys warmest good wishes for a successful and productive tenure as Ambassador to Poland.

**SUPPORT FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ELIMINATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

WHEREAS, as long as nuclear weapons exist, cities around the world will be vulnerable to instantaneous devastation on a scale exceeding even that experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945; and

WHEREAS, a nuclear war would devastate many cities, an accidental missile launch would devastate several cities, and use of a nuclear weapon by terrorists would devastate a city; and

WHEREAS, any nuclear attack would obliterate City Hall and all emergency response mechanisms rendering any city "planning" for such a disaster utterly futile; and

WHEREAS, the world's foremost line of defense against nuclear dangers is the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) which is currently in its seventh review cycle, with all parties to the treaty scheduled to meet next May to ensure that the treaty is being fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, all other weapons of mass destruction have been prohibited by international agreement and are being eliminated under international control, and the nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT have undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice unanimously found in 1996 that all states were obliged to "bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;" and

WHEREAS, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace has launched an international campaign calling on the 2005 NPT Review Conference to launch negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, to be concluded by 2010 and fully implemented by 2020, also known as the 2020 Vision; and

WHEREAS, weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. President to support a decision by the 2005 NPT Review Conference to commence negotiations

on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon-related materials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the U.S. Conference of Mayors shall remain engaged this matter until our cities are no longer under the threat of nuclear devastation.

SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND MISSION OF GLOCAL FORUM

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors supports the goals and mission of Glocal Forum, a globally based, non-profit organization headquartered in Rome, Italy and in Washington, DC.; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum is a non-governmental organization, created in 2001, which works for a new balance between global and local forces by emphasizing the central role of cities in the world; and

WHEREAS, the vision of Glocal Forum, Globalization, is an innovative strategy focusing on global issues by empowering local communities, encouraging global powers to have a broader respect for local powers and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum promotes economic development and peace- building activities through city-to-city relationships, youth empowerment and information technology; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum believes that cities have a central role in international relations and that mayors are poised to become the new diplomats of our world because they are able to effectively mobilize the good will, energy and expertise of their civil societies to contribute to peaceful dialogue and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum supports city-to-city networks by connecting them to the resources of the private and public sector thus utilizing this global coalition of international organizations and private sector companies to harness resources and address local needs; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum believes that young people play an important role in the support and growth of cities, and a defining role in the future development of our world; and

WHEREAS, The Global Youth Parliament (GYP), created by the Glocal Forum and the World Bank Institute, is a global-local network of youth representing their cities, which encourages and facilitates the participation of young people in local government, city-to-city networking, and peace building initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Glocal Forum, in partnership with Quincy Jones Listen Up Foundation, is launching a new campaign called "We are the Future," designed to secure a better future for children in areas of conflict around the world, with the objective of creating child centers for children living in conflict and post-conflict cities, and supported by a global coalition of cities and major public and private sector organizations; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors participated in the Glocal Forum, held in Rome, Italy, May 16-17, 2004, and had the opportunity to observe firsthand the work of the Glocal Forum; and

WHEREAS, United States mayors who participate with Glocal Forum will be invited to participate in the annual Globalization Conference in Rome, Italy, and in other Glocal Forums,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the mission and goals of Glocal Forum and will participate in the activities and programs, as appropriate for the mayors and cities of the United States.

HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998

WHEREAS the federal government of the United States has enacted the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 to deal with the Haitian Refugee crisis; and

WHEREAS during the 108th Congress (2nd Session), Senators Graham, Dewine, Lautenberg, Durbin and Kennedy introduced a bill to the Senate seeking to amend the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; and

WHEREAS during the 108th Congress (1st Session), Representative Meek introduced a similar bill to the House of Representatives seeking to amend the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 ("HIFRA"); and

WHEREAS the proposed bill is entitled HIFRA Improvement Act of 2003; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment seeks to (1) include document fraud among the ground in inadmissibility into the United States which shall not preclude an otherwise qualifying Haitian alien from permanent resident status adjustment; (2) provide that determinations with respect to children shall be made using the age of an individual as of October 21, 1998; (3) permits new status adjustment application to be filed for a limited time period; and (4) directs the Secretary of Home Security to establish procedures for reopening status adjustment applications based upon the amendments made by HIFRA Improvement Act of 2003,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to pass the proposed amendments to the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998.

**RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS
TRAGEDY IN SUDAN**

WHEREAS, a conflict between rebel forces in the Darfu 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 regions; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30,000 people are believed to have been killed, with over one million people forced from their homes by the Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militias, approximately 120,000 of them having sought refugee protection in neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State estimates that at least 301 Sudanese villages have been systematically attacked and destroyed, and another 76 Sudanese villages have been damaged; and

WHEREAS, a more precise assessment of the scope of the killing, ethnic cleansing, and other human rights atrocities (including rapes and tortures) 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, much of the violence being perpetrated against people in the Darfur region of Sudan is occurring through aerial attacks; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International has estimated that almost three million people are affected by the conflict in the Darfur region, but humanitarian aid agencies and the United Nations estimate that only 15 percent of these people have received aid, due to impediments to the delivery of aid imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, because of the impediments to access by humanitarian in jeopardy of starvation and illness; and

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Colin Powell has said of the situation, "This is a catastrophe and it is incumbent on the international community to come together solidly to do everything we can to bring it to an end to bring relief to these desperate people;" 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 Rwanda, Bosnia and Srebrenica; and

WHEREAS, there has been general agreement that "Never Again" will we allow such tragedies to occur; and

WHEREAS, effective measures can be taken by the United States, 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 strongly urges the U. S. Congress and the Bush Administration, in collaboration with the United Nations, to call on the government of Sudan to (a) declare a no-fly zone over the Darfur region, putting an end to aerial attacks, with enforcement of the no-fly zone to be provided by the United Nations; (b) allow the free movement of human rights investigators and humanitarian workers in the Darfur region; (c) cease supplying the allied Janjaweed militia with arms; and (d) agree to a United Nations mission of at least 10,000 international peacekeepers to stop the violence and attend to the needs of those who have been impacted by the violence in the Darfur region.

**SUPPORT OF A SIX-YEAR WELL-FUNDED METROPOLITAN FOCUSED
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST
CENTURY (TEA-21)**

WHEREAS, America's metropolitan areas, its cities and suburbs, are the engines of our nation's great economy generating 87% of its economic growth, over \$3.8 trillion; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan areas generate over 85% of the nation's economic output, labor income and jobs; and

WHEREAS, in the global marketplace, U.S. metropolitan areas represent 48 of the world's 100 largest economies; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan economies need modern infrastructure to secure the nation's future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, America needs a 21st Century transportation system that invests in the dramatic expansion of high-capacity public transit systems, addresses aging and congested infrastructure, protects the environment, defends citizen participation and fosters job creation; and

WHEREAS, stormwater mitigation projects promote environmental stewardship by reducing flooding and polluted runoff from existing highways and other transportation-related activities caused by highway stormwater discharge; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of land acquisition for transportation projects makes it increasingly more difficult for localities to attract businesses and residents in an effort to stimulate and sustain economic growth; and

WHEREAS, maximizing investments in local transit systems leads to relief of traffic congestion and mitigation of pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, by investing transportation funds wisely, we can link our metropolitan areas, reduce traffic congestion, create jobs, and make our new economy (based on the rapid movement of goods and services) function more productively; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation Conditions and Performance Report estimates that an average of \$75.9 billion per year over the next 20 years will be needed just to maintain the current physical condition and performance of the highway system and to improve the system would require \$106.9 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation Conditions and Performance Report estimates the annual cost to maintain transit infrastructure to be 14.8 billion, and the annual cost to improve the system would require \$20.6 billion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to pass a six-year transportation reauthorization bill that funds core highway and transit programs at no fewer than \$318 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to recognize that a transportation reauthorization at a significantly lower level than the Senate approved \$318 billion will continue the rapid deterioration of our transportation systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to retain the basic principles of TEA-21; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to support the highest possible funding for the transit program to stimulate a dramatic expansion of high-capacity public transit systems, including light rail, heavy rail commuter rail, bus service, dedicated alignment bus rapid transit, express bus services and transit/HOV lanes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support guaranteed funding for the transit program from the general fund, the maintaining of current matching shares for the transit program as authorized under ISTEA and TEA-21 and under no circumstance should the transit program be reduced to increase funding for the highway program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to fund the

core highway program at the highest levels possible, recognizing that congestion is a growing problem costing over \$78 billion annually and 32% of our roads are in poor or mediocre condition and that 29% percent of bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to support "Projects of National and Regional Significance" by funding this program at the highest levels possible recognizing that it is difficult for cities and states to dedicate resources to large-scale projects addressing aging, structurally obsolete and congested transportation infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to maintain the ISTEA - TEA-21 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) and fund at the highest levels possible recognizing the growing number of non-attainment areas designated under the 8-hour ozone and fine particulate matter standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to subject State Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to heightened performance and accountability requirements, including regular reporting to the public on how federal transportation funds are being spent, support locally adopted and performance targets and that MPO Board makeup should reflect the jurisdiction that the MPO is representing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress as owners and managers of virtually all of the nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems to suballocate greater surface transportation resources and decision making to metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the transportation bill should recognize the importance of local government as the organization best fit to disperse and plan the use of funds and where possible the transportation bill should allocate funding directly to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that transportation funding should continue to recognize the unique needs growing cities and new cities.

SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING CURRENT TRANSIT FORMULA BALANCE

WHEREAS, in a recent five-year period alone, public transportation use has increased by 22 percent - growing faster than vehicle miles and airline passenger miles traveled over the same period. In 2001, Americans used public transportation 9.5 billion times - the highest ridership level in 40 years; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country are rehabilitating and expanding public transportation systems and constructing new ones. More than 550 local public transportation operators currently provide services in 319 urbanized areas; 1,260 organizations provide public transportation in rural areas; and 3,660 organizations provide services to the aging population and disabled individuals; and

WHEREAS, the historical balance of transit funding, through which 40% is allocated for the Fixed Guideway and Rail Modernization (Rail-Mod) Program, 40% for the New Starts Program, and 40% for the Bus and Bus Facility Program, ensures funding to build new systems, maintain existing systems and provide flexibility to small communities; and

WHEREAS, the current balance is based on needs and ensures that new systems after being built are properly maintained; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 systems around the country depend on Rail-Mod funding to maintain track, power, signals, rolling stock and more will be eligible for this funding when their systems are 7 years or older,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to maintain the historical balance in transit formula programs by continuing to allocate 40% of transit formula funds for Rail-Mod, 40% for New Starts and 20% for Bus and Bus Facilities.

**SUPPORT OF AMTRAK'S NATIONAL SYSTEM AND
OPPOSITION TO THE ELIMINATION OF LONG DISTANCE ROUTES**

WHEREAS, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 24 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak was able to completely turn around its finances and closed out 2003 with \$150 million by sound fiscal stewardship while enjoying the most riders in the railroad's 32-year history with 24 million riders; and

WHEREAS, in highly populated regions Amtrak trains carry commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option, reducing congestion on roads and in the skies; and

WHEREAS, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and helping to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has significantly undercapitalized the national Amtrak system for decades, failed to provide passenger rail with a dedicated secure source of funding like other modes enjoy and has not supported passenger rail as many other nations have; and

WHEREAS, no comparable national passenger rail system in the world has succeeded without operating subsidies; certainly no system has ever succeeded without substantial public capital investment; and

WHEREAS, Rail Passenger Service Restructuring, Reauthorization, and Development Act (S.2306) proposes the establishment of a commission to close down long-distance routes, would split Amtrak into several entities, and requires a multi-state Northeast Corridor compact to lease the corridor from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has requested \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2005; however, the President's recommended budget amount for Amtrak is \$900 million, a 26% cut from last year's

appropriation and an amount that would shut down the national system; and

WHEREAS, the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Kenneth Mead, stated in Congressional testimony that funding at \$1.346 billion "merely postpones the day of reckoning and that day is surely coming. Amtrak cannot continue to operate the current system without eventually and soon addressing the backlog of investment needed to bring that system to a state-of-good-repair. Otherwise, unacceptable and unpredictable equipment and infrastructure problems will surely begin a downward spiral of diminished service levels and disappearing passenger service", and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to invest in Amtrak by creating a long-term sustainable federal funding mechanism to provide Amtrak with a fair and consistent source of capital and operating support for intercity and passenger rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide at least \$1.8 billion for Amtrak in FY05 to not only sustain but also improve our national intercity passenger rail system over the next year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to reject efforts to eliminate long-distance routes, break up and privatize Amtrak inter-city passenger rail operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration to take financial and operational responsibility for securing our nation's passenger and commuter rail systems.

SUPPORT OF PROVIDING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PARATRANSIT SERVICE

WHEREAS, under the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), public transit systems have made significant capital investments to make mainline transit systems accessible for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the ADA is that all mainline public transit systems shall be 100% accessible, but the ADA acknowledges that even with public transit systems that are 100% accessible, some people with disabilities will still be unable to use mainline systems due to the nature of their disability, weather conditions or other reasons; and

WHEREAS, under the ADA, public transit systems are required to provide paratransit service for persons who are unable to use mainline service, but the ADA did not provide dedicated funding to fulfill this federal mandate; and

WHEREAS, currently, the federal government provides no funding for the operation of paratransit services and the financial burden of providing this important service has fallen on the shoulders of regional and local transit agencies and transit riders. Public transit systems have had to dedicate resources to paratransit and away from mainline bus and rail service, which impacts service provided to all customers; and

WHEREAS, the operating costs for providing paratransit services for public transit systems are more than 10 times the cost of providing mainline service and are expected to continue to increase, particularly as our population ages and costs for fuel escalate; and

WHEREAS, transportation services for the disabled and elderly community are provided by a variety of human services organizations and agencies, public transit systems and community based organizations, all of which are seeking funding from federal, state and local government. Coordinated transportation services that extend beyond mainline service are needed. Greater efficiency helps to stretch the limited (and often insufficient) funding and personnel resources of these agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide federal funding to public transit systems for

the purpose of providing paratransit service as required by the ADA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to increase funding for travel training for disabled and elderly persons on public transit systems in order to increase opportunities for disabled and elderly persons to use accessible mainline systems and to optimally leverage the federal investment in public transportation.

**SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR SECURITY
AND OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, the Administration and Congress have allocated significant federal resources in making the nation's airport facilities safer and less vulnerable to terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, 16 times more Americans ride on public transportation each day than on domestic airlines, but there is no funding (line item) in the Administration's FY05 budget for transit security, while there is \$5.3 billion for aviation security; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Banking Committee recently approved a mark-up of the Public Transportation Terrorism Prevention Act, which authorizes \$5.2 billion for funding of transit security initiatives directly to public transportation systems beginning in fiscal year 2005; and

WHEREAS, safety and security is the top priority of the public transportation industry. Since September 11, 2001, the industry has spent \$1.7 billion from its own resources to fund security initiatives, many of which are from directives issued by the Administration and Congress. The increasing burden to respond to security directives requires funds from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, public transportation systems need additional federal funding for the ongoing cost of staffing for increased security planning, surveillance, patrols and response to alert notifications; for the development and delivery of internal security programs; for participation in established security programs external to transit agencies; internal and inter-agency emergency preparedness drills; and for national and regional security workshops/symposiums through government, industry and partnered initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide federal funding immediately and directly to transit agencies and local authorities and for the Administration to include a line item in the budget for transit security.

CREATING A FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR "SMALL START" TRANSIT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, cities throughout the United States are embracing less expensive, fixed guide way "small start" transit projects like streetcars, trolleys and bus rapid transit as one solution to improving transportation mobility; and

WHEREAS, today, approximately 75 municipalities in 39 states and the District of Columbia have a streetcar system, have one under construction, or are interested in getting a system; and

WHEREAS, streetcar systems, with more than 45,000 miles of track prior to World War I, are an important part of our nation's transportation heritage; and

WHEREAS, streetcar lines are an inexpensive and effective tool for transforming urban communities, sparking economic development, leveraging private investment, and connecting transit-deficient neighborhoods to regional transit systems; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no Federal funding source for new "small starts"; and

WHEREAS, federal rules for "new starts" are overly burdensome to smaller transit projects; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering amending TEA-21 to allow "small starts" to access transit capital investment grants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a Federal funding source to help "small starts"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to modify Federal rules to expedite "small start" projects.

SUPPORT OF CREATING A "PROJECTS OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE" OR "MEGA-PROJECTS" CATEGORY IN THE REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21, AND FUNDING IT AT A ROBUST LEVEL

WHEREAS, America's cities rely on a healthy transportation infrastructure to keep their metropolitan economies competitive in the world marketplace; and

WHEREAS, a critical piece of that healthy infrastructure is the ability to efficiently move freight to and from markets and ports to national and international destinations; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State governments have a history of partnering with cities in meeting their transportation infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, many cities are facing the need to build, rebuild, or repair major segments of their transportation infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, move freight and goods, relieve congestion, and ensure safe travel; and

WHEREAS, there is no funding source in the existing Federal-Aid Highway program adequate to address the needs of these "mega-projects"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a policy for reauthorization of TEA-21 that calls for the creation of a Federal funding source to help address "mega-projects"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives included within its adopted TEA-21 reauthorization bill a Projects of National and Regional Significance category funded at a level of \$6.6 billion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass a Projects of National and Regional Significance category with robust funding in the final TEA-21 reauthorization bill.

**SUPPORT OF CHANGES TO CHARTER REGULATIONS IN THE REAUTHORIZATION
OF THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (TEA-21)**

WHEREAS, public transportation moves nearly 30 million people a day in the United States and transit ridership has increased 20 percent since 1995; and

WHEREAS, transit riders represent a cross-section of America ranging from the very young on their first outing to the zoo to individuals transitioning from welfare to the workplace, to seniors depending on transit services to get them to the grocery store, medical appointments or family gatherings; 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 in the 1991 ISTEA that FTA provide more flexibility for public transportation agencies in the charter service regulation through a demonstration program, and FTA withdrew the proposal for recommended changes on September 13, 2001; and

WHEREAS, there is inconsistency in what is considered charter service, and service found to be mass transit in one region of the country could be considered prohibited "charter service" in another; and

WHEREAS, public transportation agencies rely increasingly upon local funding to support their operations, and local governments and community groups grow increasingly frustrated that they cannot respond to community needs; and

WHEREAS, public transportation agencies that receive federal funds should not compete with private over-the road carriers, they should also be allowed to provide community-based transportation to events, organizations and individuals so long as the service is of public interest in nature; and

WHEREAS, much of the problem is created by the way in which the charter regulations are structured and can be resolved to protect both private industry and the local community; 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, thereby creating a bright line distinction that removes the transit agency from the subjective confusion involved in the existing regulatory 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 consideration be given to the concerns of the largest public transit agencies regarding their capacity to provide such service.

**SUPPORT OF PROMOTING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES IN THE
TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

WHEREAS, metropolitan regions throughout the United States are experiencing increased highway and road congestion and air quality problems; and

WHEREAS, obesity is now recognized as a leading public health threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, encouraging Americans to use non-motorized transportation choices, such as bicycling and walking, for more of their daily trips, would reduce congestion, air quality problems, energy consumption, and obesity, and improve community livability; and

WHEREAS, ISTEA and TEA-21 greatly expanded our nation's investments in bicycle and pedestrian projects from less than \$2 million per year by all 50 states combined in the 20 years prior to ISTEA to an average of more than \$200 million during TEA-21; and

WHEREAS, more than \$2 billion of ISTEA and TEA-21 funds have been invested in bicycling and walking since 1991; and

WHEREAS, safe routes for bicycling, walking and other non-motorized transportation choices are still inadequate in many urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering funding increases for Transportation Enhancements and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality programs, which provide the vast majority of funds for bicycling and pedestrian projects; and

WHEREAS, a recent study found that while 70 percent of parents walked or biked to school, only 18 percent of children today walk or bike to school; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering formally establishing a Safe Routes to School Program in the reauthorization of TEA-21,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to increase funding for Transportation Enhancements and other programs that encourage non-motorized transportation alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to establish a Safe Routes to School Program in the reauthorization of TEA-21.

**SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION'S LETTER OF INTENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, after the events of September 11, the federal government assumed responsibility for all aspects of security at our nation's airports by establishing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in an effort to return travelers to a safe, efficient air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, TSA established a letter of intent "LOI" program to reimburse airports for the cost of installing sophisticated Explosive Detection Systems (EDS) to more efficiently screen checked baggage; and

WHEREAS, Congress directed TSA through the FAA Reauthorization bill, "Vision 100" to fund 90% of the EDS installation cost for large airports and 95% of the cost for small to medium sized airports; and

WHEREAS, TSA has disclosed that it will be unable to fully reimburse airports at the level set forth by Congress and furthermore the agency will be unable to commit to any more LOIs beyond the eight they have until after 2005 due to funding restraints; and

WHEREAS, airport EDS projects will be delayed as a result of lack of funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Bush Administration to appropriate adequate federal funding for LOIs to allow airports to meet the security needs of today's traveling public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on the Transportation Security Administration to fully fund existing LOI's at the Congressionally mandated level of 90% for large airports and 95% for small to medium airports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors supports efforts in the United State Senate to increase funding for the LOI program by \$150 million a year.

**SUPPORT OF INCREASED METROPOLITAN PLANNING TRANSPORTATION FUNDS
IN THE REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21**

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Act of 1973 required states to dedicate a portion of the funds they received from the federal highway trust fund for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to carry out metropolitan transportation planning programs under the direction of mayors and other local policy makers; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and other local policy makers ultimately make decisions on MPO plans and programs ensuring that transportation decisions on projects and spending reflect needs of cities and the people who live our communities as opposed to the concrete and highway establishment; and

WHEREAS, Many states continue to penalize cities in the distribution of federal transportation funds and projects; and

WHEREAS, MPOs offer a means, although limited at this point, to counter the dominating control of state departments of transportation over federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2000 Census, 80 percent of the nation's population now resides on metropolitan areas and trends suggest that the metropolitan share of the population will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 Census resulted in 76 new urban areas and 46 new MPOs - without increased funding, this fact alone would result in a one fifth reduction in real planning fund levels; and

WHEREAS, MPO planning funds are used to develop transportation plans to meet air quality standards set forth in the Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the increased functions placed on MPOs, such as emergency planning, environmental justice, job access, and freight planning, overall MPO funding has remained at the 1 percent level set in ISTEA,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to increase the metropolitan transportation planning set-aside to the highest funding level.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE FEDERAL SCREENERS
AT OUR AIRPORTS THIS SUMMER**

WHEREAS, after the events of September 11, the federal government assumed responsibility for all aspects of security at our nation's airports by establishing the Transportation Security Administration; and

WHEREAS, TSA's responsibilities included replacing the private screener workforce which had traditionally screened passengers with federal employees at the security checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, Thirteen of our nation's top fifty airports will exceed their year 2000 passenger levels this summer. Because security efficiency makes up a significant percentage of travel wait times, airports operators are concerned that there will not be enough TSA screener staff to meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, Congress put a cap on the number of federal screeners at 45,000 and TSA is running vacancies at approximately 7-10% under authorized levels,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on TSA to ensure that the appropriate level of screener staff is available at our nations' airports to meet the needs of this summer's traveling public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on TSA to work with airports in determining the appropriate number of screeners necessary for each airport.

USCM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY CLARIFICATION AND AFFIRMATION

WHEREAS, metropolitan areas, the focal points of economic activity, are vital to the nation's economic development and have accounted for more than 86% of the growth in the nation's economy over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Mayors have voiced their strong support for reauthorization of TEA-21 as transportation infrastructure investment is essential to the economies of metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors outlined its surface transportation goals in a policy platform entitled: A Transportation Strategy for America's Cities for the 21st Century: Strengthen Metropolitan Economies Through Transportation Investment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors policy platform lists as its Reauthorization Goals:

- Retain the basic principles of TEA-21.
- Strongly support a substantial increase in transit investment to keep pace with the dramatic ridership increase while opposing threats to transit through reallocation of funding sources.
- Suballocate surface transportation funds to metropolitan areas for repair and maintenance of existing urban highways while giving equal weight to expanding public transit, congestion mitigation, safety programs, intermodal projects, land use, and streamlined federal and state transportation regulations.
- Provide significant resources to address aging and congested transportation infrastructure.
- Require accountability and performance based measures of state transportation agencies and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO).

WHEREAS, trade between the Mexico, Canada and the United States has grown exponentially since passage of NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation states that the great majority of this trade (for example roughly 83 percent of US-Mexico trade by dollar value) moves by truck or rail, placing a significant burden upon border communities which have the responsibility of providing for

the safe movement of people and goods that cross our borders on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Congress included in TEA-21, a Borders & Corridors Program but through the appropriation process the funding to border communities has been limited to 14% of the program's funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors affirms its Policy Platform entitled A Transportation Strategy for America's Cities for the 21st Century: Strengthen Metropolitan Economies Through Transportation Investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors amends its policy platform to call upon the Congress to retain the Borders and Corridors program, and to be eligible for funding as a border community, funding would be limited to those located within 50 miles of the U.S. border and that funding be prioritized using a formula based upon the volume of border traffic handled by the community.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A REASONABLE INCREASE
AND INDEXING OF THE FEDERAL GAS TAX TO MEET
THE NEEDS OF THE NATION'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, America's cities and metropolitan areas are the engines of the national economy; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan regions depend on strong transportation infrastructure to remain economically competitive; and

WHEREAS, Congress is now debating the reauthorization of TEA-21 and the critical issue of funding our nation's surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors expressed support for the \$375 billion funding level for TEA-21 reauthorization proposed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in November 2003; and

WHEREAS, Congress is now considering much lower funding levels for TEA-21 reauthorization based on the \$284 billion legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the \$318 billion legislation passed by the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a funding level of no less than \$318 billion for the TEA-21 reauthorization bill; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is promoting an aggressive agenda for TEA-21 reauthorization that would require significantly more funding than provided by TEA-21; and

WHEREAS, the simplest, most-effective means to raise significant revenue for surface transportation programs is through an increase in the federal gas tax; and

WHEREAS, leading transportation advocates in Congress have called for an increase in the federal gas tax to ensure adequate investment in transportation; and

WHEREAS, current increases in gas prices do not translate into larger investments in our nation's surface transportation infrastructure,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to support a reasonable increase and indexing of the federal gas tax to ensure a well-funded and equitably distributed TEA-21 reauthorization bill that meets our nation's surface transportation needs.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PRE-CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, in 2002, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit(EITC) lifted 4.9 million people, including 2.7 million children, above the poverty line-more than any other federal aid program; and

WHEREAS, currently, the value of the EITC credit is \$36 billion, to the benefit of 22 million hard working, low income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the EITC represents money earned by hard working, low income families and in no way represents a give-away; and

WHEREAS, the EITC provides enormous economic benefit to our communities because recipients spend their EITC dollars on goods and services within our communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond reducing poverty, the EITC promotes work, reduces income inequity and helps low income working families build assets; and

WHEREAS, despite great opposition from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, members of Congress and many national organizations, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) implemented a new "certification" process in December 2003 which required 25,000 EITC applicants to be "certified" before they could receive their EITC benefits; and

WHEREAS, the IRS plans to "pre-certify" an additional 25,000 EITC applicants in July 2004 prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the extensive documentation required for this pre-certification may be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain within the proposed six month deadline and will inevitably deter many eligible families from even applying for the EITC benefit to which they are entitled under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the complications of the "pre-certification" process will inevitably cause delays in EITC refunds of such filers, refunds that families count on for basic living expenses; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has indicated that it may expand the "pre-certification" requirements to approximately two million filers for the coming filing seasons, and do so prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the IRS appears to be targeting low income working families applying for the EITC benefit while not requiring pre-certification for tax shelters purchased by corporations or tax benefits claimed by higher income individuals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to address any delays in tax returns that EITC filers have experienced due to the certification and pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the IRS initiative to continue and expand the EITC pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to prohibit any further implementation of new EITC requirements without proper Congressional authorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the IRS to simplify EITC so that all those who are eligible can and will apply for their justly deserved tax credit.

**URGING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF
SALE-LEASEBACK FINANCING**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate adopted a comprehensive corporate tax bill, S. 1637, on May 11 which includes a provision that would eliminate sale-leaseback financing for state and local governments as well as for other tax-exempt entities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed elimination is included in a bill that would repeal a U.S. export tax regime which violates World Trade Organization rules and replace it with a variety of new tax cuts to corporations; and

WHEREAS, the repeal is necessary in order to remove a tariff (which began in March at a rate of 5 percent and is scheduled to increase every month by 1 percent until it reaches 17 percent) which is being imposed by the European Union as a penalty on a wide range of U.S. exports until the illegal tax regime is repealed; and

WHEREAS, encouraged by federal agencies over the last two decades, cities, counties and states have used sales-leaseback financing to help finance a number of critical infrastructure improvement and expansion projects such as subway systems, water and waste-water treatment systems; and

WHEREAS, sale-leaseback financing works in many respects like a person refinancing a home and using the equity to pay for adding an extra bedroom, for example, to pay for new subway cars needed to address a growing number of passengers, a city could access the equity it owns in a subway line by temporarily selling it to an investor (such as a bank) who agrees to lease it back to the city, in which case the city receives a significant fee and the investor is allowed to depreciate the property and receive a tax deduction over the period of the lease, and at the end of the lease, ownership of the property reverts back to the city; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the Federal Transit Administration approved sale-leaseback projects through the Fall of 2003, at which time the U.S. Treasury Department issued a letter urging that no more projects be approved, and since that time the market for sale-leaseback financing has virtually shut down and left at least 20 proposals

submitted for approval (approximately 15 are pending before the Federal Transit Administration) in a state of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the Senate voted 92-5 on May 11 to approve S. 1637, which includes new stringent rules developed by the Treasury Department that would be applied retroactively to November 18, 2003 and in effect shut down sale-leaseback financing for all pending and future proposals in order to raise an estimated \$39 billion in revenues, which would be used to help provide \$170 billion in a variety of tax cuts to corporations over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, if the Senate proposal is enacted, state and local governments will lose an estimated \$5.4 billion over the next ten years at a time when many are still struggling to recover from the worst fiscal crisis since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the leadership in the House has introduced legislation, H.R. 3967, that does not embrace the retroactive effective date in the Senate bill, instead it would allow pending proposals to move through the approval process under existing rules, and members on the Ways and Means Committee are also considering offering amendments that would continue sale-leaseback financing for state and local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges members of Congress to support final legislation that would allow state and local governments to continue to use leasing as a means of financing critical infrastructure projects that benefit the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of Congress are urged to support and adopt final legislation that provides for:

- a transition period that would allow all pending proposals to move through the approval process under the tax rules in effect at the time they were submitted.
- the continuation of sales-leaseback financing with changes in the tax rules for future transactions that impose appropriate amounts of increased risk on lessors while at the same time permitting transactions, as modified to comply with new requirements, to continue.

- appropriately limiting the availability of these transactions involving foreign assets.
- requiring the lessors to make and maintain substantial equity investment in the leased property.
- limiting the amount of risk that a city or tax-exempt entity (lessee) may assume in leasing transactions to not more than a specified amount of the investor's (lessor's) risk of loss in value in the leased property.

**URGING SUPPORT FOR REINSTATING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM
ON TAXES ON INTERNET ACCESS FEES**

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the growth of electronic commerce and examine how state and local taxes should be applied to the market place on the world wide web, Congress in 1998 enacted the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA), which imposed a temporary moratorium on state and local taxes on Internet access fees, as well as banned multiple and discriminatory taxes; and

WHEREAS, temporary legislation was adopted to allow electronic commerce as well as telecommunications technology time to develop and establish trends before determining how state and local taxes should be applied; and

WHEREAS, a sea of change is still occurring with many technologies migrating to the Internet that state and local governments have traditionally taxed such as phone service (or Voice over Internet Protocol--VoIP), music, games, movies and magazines; and

WHEREAS, the Internet Tax Freedom Act expired last November amid disagreement in Congress over two key issues: whether or not it is time to make the moratorium permanent and whether or not the definition of Internet access should be expanded; and

WHEREAS, the House passed legislation, H.R. 49, last year that would make the moratorium permanent and expand the definition of Internet access to include telecommunications services, which under the original act were excluded; and

WHEREAS, under the House bill, telecommunications services used to provide Internet access would not be subject to state and local taxes, which could be interpreted to mean state and local governments would not be permitted to tax traditional telephone services used to provide Internet access, or collect taxes on music, games movies or other items bundled with Internet access and sold as a package; and

WHEREAS, the language used to define Internet access in the House bill is so vague that the Congressional Budget Office could not fully estimate the financial impact it would have on state and local governments, although state and local

groups believe it could cause them to lose billions on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, similar legislation was introduced in the Senate on behalf of the telecommunications industry by Senators George Allen (VA) and Ron Wyden (OR) but the Conference and other state and local groups prevailed in convincing members of the Senate that it would have a severe adverse impact on state and local revenues; and

WHEREAS, Senators Lamar Alexander (TN) and Thomas Carper (DE) sponsored legislation (S. 2084) on behalf of state and local governments that would have extended the moratorium for two additional years and adopted a definition of Internet access more in line with current law, (it merely clarified that Internet access provided over digital subscriber lines, DSL, as well as other forms of Internet access--wireless, cable and etc...would be treated the same); and

WHEREAS, as a compromise Senator John McCain (AZ) offered legislation, S. 150, which was approved by the Senate on April 29, and it calls for a four-year extension of the moratorium, language ensuring that state and local governments may continue to collect taxes on music, games and other items bundled with Internet access, a grandfather clause that would allow state and local governments with taxes on Internet access in effect when the original act was adopted in 1998 to continue collecting such taxes for the next four years, and those with taxes on DSL to continue to collect them for the next two years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges all members of the House and Senate to support the Senate bill, S. 150, as final legislation without any changes, and avoid the need for a House-Senate conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges all members of the House and Senate to oppose any compromise that embraces the permanent moratorium or the definition of Internet access outlined in H.R. 49.

**RE-COMMIT AMERICA TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA'S WORKING
FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have proposed a FY 2005 budget which would significantly cut or underfund programs of national priority for America's working families in the areas of housing, education, and health care; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, our leaders have committed the nation to a war in Iraq that has and will cost the nation's present and future taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, America's working families, particularly those that are poor and of moderate income, continue to struggle financially making wages that are little or no higher in real terms than those of 30 years ago (Real hourly wages for male workers in the bottom 20th percentile was \$9.70 in 1973 but it is \$9.22 in 2003; for women, \$6.62 in 1973 and \$7.94 in 2003); and

WHEREAS, in 2002 the average annual household income of families in the bottom fifth was only \$9,990; the second fifth, \$25,400; and the third fifth \$42,802; yet in the 1990s, more than half of families in these quintiles remained in the same income quintile or fell to a lower one; and

WHEREAS, one quarter of the workforce—28 million people—made less than \$9.04/hr in 2003; and many of these are the fighting men and women of our armed services; and

WHEREAS, continued global competition faced by the U.S. economy will result in downward wage pressures for many American families, particularly the 60% of America's families who make less than \$42,802 annually, many of whom are families with breadwinners serving in the armed services, reserves, or national guard; and

WHEREAS, current federal programs are insufficient to adequately assist families who lose jobs due to global competition; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has administratively capped Section 8 housing vouchers at a

time when the nation is facing an affordable housing crisis in many of its major metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, in a 2003 survey, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the condition of the nation's infrastructure a "D" or failing grade in nine of twelve categories; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and Congress have not honored the commitment to federally fund 40% of special needs education and to fully fund Head Start or the No Child Left Behind Act; and

WHEREAS, most of America's families find it increasingly difficult to fund college for their children; and

WHEREAS, 41 million Americans, many of them children, have no health insurance, and our nation does not guarantee nor require affordable health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and the Administration have consistently under-represented the true cost of the war and nation-building in Iraq to the American people; and

WHEREAS, Iraq is becoming increasingly violent, and our credibility with the Iraqi people is becoming severely strained due to problems securing the country after the fall of Saddam Hussein, thereby making future U.S. cost commitments to stabilizing Iraq significantly higher than previous estimates; and

WHEREAS, our leaders today have committed to rebuilding Iraq in an effort to promote a more stable Middle East, yet it is clear that stability in that part of the world will require persistent long-term resolve and public investment; and

WHEREAS, the war on Iraq was waged without the partnership of significant international allies who are now unlikely to significantly contribute to the cost of rebuilding Iraq and securing its future; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the nation's armed services, reserves and national guard are serving with distinction and honor in the Middle East, many of them having been injured or having sacrificing their lives for that part of the world; and

WHEREAS, many city employees are serving in reserve or national guard units in the Middle East for extended periods with cities supplementing their income and continuing health and other benefits at significant costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to recommit themselves to addressing unmet national priorities to meet the needs of working Americans, while at the same time providing the necessary resources to adequately protect our armed forces in Iraq—addressing both agendas with equal resolve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress begin to address measures to support low and middle income working families by raising the minimum wage and expanding college student aid programs so that all families have the opportunity to improve their children's future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress restore full funding of existing housing vouchers and create incentives to encourage the production of affordable housing for working families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress develop a new, modern infrastructure investment plan to address America's crumbling infrastructure and need for good-paying jobs by creatively using pension funds, insurance guarantees, infrastructure bonds, and creative public/private partnerships to help finance major projects. Additionally, Congress must invest in a 21st Century transportation system built with ultra-modern high-speed rail, bus, transit, and new technology in mind, as well as an investment program to redevelop the nation's 600,000 brownfields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress fully fund Head Start and the No Child Left Behind Act, and keep its commitment to fund at least 40% of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress require universal health care for our children through expansion of the CHIP program; and provide health insurance coverage for the uninsured through refundable tax credits or other funding mechanisms; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that to maintain the strength of America at home, investment in our domestic priorities

should not be deferred to fund the war in Iraq and the rebuilding of Iraq; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress fully fund the workforce development system, especially the \$1 billion in formula funding for year round in- and out-of-school youth and summer youth training, to assure the development of future workers

URGING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE 2010 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the National Academies of Science recently cited the 2000 address list as one of the major operational problems of the 2000 census; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress passed the Census Address List Improvement Act to facilitate cooperation between the Census Bureau and local governments to improve the census address list, and the Census Bureau operationalized the law in a program titled Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA); and

WHEREAS, the Congressional intent of the Census Address List Improvement Act was two-fold: first the legislators believed that by drawing on the knowledge of local officials the Census Bureau could improve the quality of the address list, and second, Congress believed that local government officials would have more confidence in the quality of the address list if they were active participants in the process, and had the opportunity to review the address list for their jurisdiction before the census count; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the LUCA program produced only mixed results according to a GAO report which stated that the level of participation by local governments was low, that those who did participate found the program burdensome, and that the Census Bureau underestimated the time needed to complete the program; and

WHEREAS, many of the problems with the 2000 Census can be resolved by bringing local governments officials into the process earlier, committing greater resources to the address list process, and increasing education so that local officials and Census Bureau employees understand their shared goal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to commit additional financial and personnel resources to the address list process starting in 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Census Bureau to take the

necessary steps to improve the process for working with local governments, including the following:

- a. establishing a senior level position for a person who can respond to the specific issues and problems of local governments regarding the address list, and who can bring together resources from throughout the Census Bureau to change policies and procedures to achieve the desired outcomes.
- b. soliciting input from local governments and the organizations that represent them in developing plans for improving the address list for 2010.
- c. establishing priorities in dealing with address list problems faced by the wide spectrum of local governments across the nation.
- d. testing procedures designed to better list and enumerate the most problematic address types in the 2006 test census.

ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR TORT REFORM

WHEREAS, in recent years the annual cost of tort settlements and judgments that cities have had to pay out has skyrocketed, even reaching into tens of millions of dollars for some cities; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, the high costs of tort settlements and judgments for cities are due in part to judgments that far exceed the harm caused; and

WHEREAS, in other cases, cities are made responsible for the costs of large federal judgments against individual local government employees based on their willful misconduct even though the local government has a system in place to discipline employees for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, resources that cities must devote to frivolous tort litigation and tort settlements and judgments could otherwise be available for other important public purposes, and ultimately, the costs of such tort settlements and judgments are generally borne by local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, cities are being forced to pay tort settlements and judgments under federal laws that Congress has the power to change without infringing on state tort law or state prerogatives; and

WHEREAS, the issue of tort liability in the private sector has also been the subject of much debate in recent years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to enact tort reform legislation directing the judicial system to emphasize appropriate compensation for victims in actions against municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact legislation to ensure that federal judgments against individual local government employees based on their willful misconduct are collectable only from those employees, and not from their governmental employers, at least when the local government has a reasonable system in place to discipline employees for their misconduct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to enact legislation limiting awards of

attorney's fees in actions against municipalities under federal law to amounts that are appropriately proportionate, so that spurious claims do not permit plaintiffs' attorneys to obtain unjust awards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to work towards removing the partisanship and subjectivity from the broader debate over tort liability, and to strive for objective tort reform that ensures continued access to the courts for victims while also protecting against excessive awards that can harm the economic base of our communities.

URGING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CLOSED MILITARY BASES

WHEREAS, the closure of military bases has caused severe economic impacts to communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, communities facing base closures have been assured by the federal government that resources for remediation would be made available so that economic revitalization can be achieved; and

WHEREAS, economic revitalization through reuse cannot successfully occur until the responsible services of the Department of Defense commit adequate resources to remediate, on an expeditious basis, the environmental contamination at these properties to levels consistent with their future reuse; and

WHEREAS, the federal commitment to fund the environmental remediation of closed bases has been chronically inadequate with the result that these critically needed properties remain an environmental blight on the surrounding communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to adequately fund the environmental remediation of closed military bases in a manner that fosters their prompt conversion to productive civilian reuse.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, this year, 21 million workers - more than one in seven workers nationally - will seek assistance from our nation's workforce system, over 2.3 million private sector jobs have been lost and the job market for these workers is becoming more difficult; and

WHEREAS, though the national unemployment rate has declined slightly, it is still very high in some states and urban areas and there is a national youth unemployment and skills crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), which was developed by Congress to create a flexible job training system that meets the skills requirements of U.S. workers and employers for jobs for the 21st Century, expired on September 20, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has worked closely with Congress over the past year and a half to develop a WIA reauthorization proposal that ensures that strong local authority and flexibility for local elected officials and their workforce investment boards (WIBs) remains at the core of WIA reauthorization to meet the needs of local and regional labor markets; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1261, *The Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003*, the bill approved by the House addressed governance issues to retain a locally-based, demand driven system, which allowed the Senate bill, *The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 2003*, S. 1627, to focus on further improvements to the WIA system, and includes a majority of the Conference of Mayor's proposals; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of WIA reauthorization legislation that enhances the locally-based, demand driven system and addresses key challenges in implementation is extremely important at this fragile time in our nation's economic recovery, so that there will not be an interruption in the consistent development of a high quality U.S. workforce system that is needed to support the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Budget proposal consolidates and cuts WIA funding through a state-block grant which includes the adult formula program, the dislocated worker formula program and the Wagner Peyser

employment service and cuts youth formula funding by 25 percent to fund a new, untried initiative; and

WHEREAS, the President's "Better Training for Better Jobs" proposal, introduced on April 5 of this year, has made major departures from both the House bill, which passed on May 8, 2003 with a vote of 220 - 204, and the Senate bill, which passed by unanimous consent on November 14, 2003, by eliminating the locally-based, demand driven system, and creating a state-directed block grant system which includes the adult formula, the dislocated worker formula and the Employment Service, and would also include the youth formula which would allow the Governor to eliminate youth services, and is a departure from the President's FY 2005 Budget proposal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to ensure that any action of legislation, regulations, budget process or pilot programs:

- Increases direct funding to the local level where the services are provided and does not lessen WIA funds to local areas through a state block grant or any other means,
- Does not shift more program design, decision-making or authority to the Governors through a state block grant, expanded waiver authority or any other means,
- Does not cause unnecessary disruptions or structural changes to this relatively young system,
- Does not lessen youth formula dollars to local areas and
- Does not allow for the elimination of youth services through a state block grant or any other means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to move ahead in a Conference of H.R. 1261 and S. 1627 to complete a bipartisan agreement on reauthorization of WIA as soon as possible, in order to finalize further improvements in the nation's workforce investment system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to include in the final Conference agreement of H.R. 1261 and S. 1627 and in the final WIA reauthorization legislation the following:

1. Governance - an agreement that ensures and enhances a continued strong, locally-based, business-led workforce investment system; ensures the appointment of local boards by local elected officials; protects the designation of high-performing workforce areas; maintains but does not expand current WIA waiver authority (beyond the expedited waiver authority); maintains the business majority requirement for membership on State Boards; includes Chief Elected Officials and Local WIB members on the State Boards; focuses the role of the state WIB authority around guidance for development of a comprehensive One-Stop system and does not provide state boards with certification authority over the One Stops; ensures that regional planning is conducted only after first consulting with local boards and local elected officials; and ensures that any regional plan incorporates the plans of each of the local areas within the region.
 2. Funding - an agreement that in no way lessens funding to local areas through a state block grant or any other means, and provides resources and tools to address the huge poverty issues in cities.
 3. Youth - an agreement that protects the \$1 billion currently provided for Youth formula funding for both in-school and out-of-school youth ages 14-21, allows for continued, innovative services for in-school youth and is not included in any block grant.
 4. One-Stop Infrastructure Funding - an agreement that adequately funds the One-Stop infrastructure among the mandatory One-Stop partners to allow more training and services to be delivered under WIA, such as a separate authorization for such infrastructure funding.
 5. Administrative Costs Definition - an agreement that maintains and codifies the definition of administrative costs in current regulations which was carefully developed and well vetted through lengthy negotiations between DOL, the states and the locals, tested and supported by the Inspector General.
- \$** Data - In the determination of state and local funding decisions, and such other activities and functions that require the use of data for carrying out the requirements of this Act, an agreement that calls for

Department of Labor to use the most recent data available, including data collected as the result of the 2000 census, in order that the national workforce investment system most accurately reflects the true needs of America's workers and employers across the country.

- \$ **Performance Standards** - an agreement that includes a business measure, does not include an "efficiency" measure, and that uses a regression model to encourage services for the hardest to serve.
- \$ **Expenditures** - an agreement that fairly holds States and local areas accountable for system expenditures based upon accrued expenditures (in future program years).
- \$ **Training** - an agreement that continues to authorize training for low wage workers for jobs that provide self-sufficiency, simplifies training reporting requirements, and provides for local input.
- \$ **Business Services** - an agreement that encourages innovative services and strategies for serving employers and ensures the relevance of the WIA system for business; and

IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the absence of WIA passage, that the current agreement on administrative costs that was carefully developed and well vetted through lengthy negotiations between DOL, the states and the locals, and was tested and supported by the Inspector General, be maintained.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDING

WHEREAS, since 2000 there has been a steep decline in the employment rate of the nation's teens, summer employment rates have been at historically low levels, with this past summer's rate the lowest it has been since 1948 when the government starting collecting this data; and

WHEREAS, 5.4 million of the 17 million American youth aged 16 to 24 are without a diploma or without a job; and

WHEREAS, this excludes the 360,000 16 - 24 year olds in prison, 65 percent of whom do not have a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, 2.4 million of these youth are poor and are disproportionately Latino and African American and their numbers are steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, more than 500,000 youth per year drop out of high school and hundreds of thousands of other struggling students may be on the verge of leaving school or being pushed out, and jobs are scarce; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth formula and Youth Opportunity Grant program have successfully met the needs of a small portion of these at-risk youth - 82,000 youth received training, education or work experience in Program Year (PY) 2003, the most recent year for which data is available; and

2. **WHEREAS**, youth formula funding has been consistently cut since Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, from a FY 1994 youth formula funding level of \$1.547 billion to the FY 04 level of \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, under the current WIA reauthorization process, there are proposals to change the youth allocation formula and proposals to change the percentages of allocation between the states and local areas; and

WHEREAS, in the President's Fiscal Year 2005 Budget proposal there is a 25 percent cut to WIA youth formula dollars, in order to fund a new, untested youth initiative, and further, there is a proposal by the President in his "Better Training For Better Jobs" initiative that would combine the WIA youth formula program into a single block grant with the Adult formula program, the Dislocated Worker formula program and

the Wagner Peyser Employment Service which would allow Governors to eliminate services for youth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the FY 2005 Budget process and WIA reauthorization, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to protect and increase the \$1 billion currently provided for Youth formula funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change in the youth formula allocation 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 for any state youth formula discretionary allocation, that the Governor is required to allocate to local areas in accordance with a formula developed with the input of chief elected officials and local board that takes into account the factors relating to the high poverty and at-risk youth population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to ensure and enforce that the state's use of the state's percentage of WIA youth formula funds be used toward required statewide youth activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to assure the development of future workers, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to provide \$1 billion in funding for a youth employment and internship training program for the nation's young people.

KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY: SUPPORT FOR JOB TRAINING AND RETENTION

WHEREAS, high-skill, well paying jobs are the key to a successful economy and society; and

WHEREAS, a skilled and well trained work force is necessary to attracting and retaining such jobs; and

WHEREAS, even among those who complete high school, many American youth are not prepared for work in a high-skill, technologically advanced economy; and

WHEREAS, many modern industrialized countries in cooperation with manufacturers and other employers subsidize and otherwise promote apprenticeship programs that help train young people for jobs in a high-skill, technologically advanced economy; and

WHEREAS, many cities have initiated programs that help train young people to meet the job skills needed by employers, with dramatic results; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs to train its next generation of workers to participate successfully in a 21st Century economy and needs to retain high-skill, well paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, teen unemployment in the summer of 2003 was at its highest level since 1948; and

WHEREAS, there are 700,000 fewer positions at U.S. companies and on government payrolls today than there were in November 2001, when the recession was declared to be over; and

WHEREAS, the exporting of jobs to other countries is being broadly felt across industries, among all skill levels of workers and has negatively impacted local economies across the country; and

WHEREAS, according to Forrester Research, outsourcing could result in the loss of 3.3 million U.S. jobs by 2017; and

WHEREAS, several measures have been introduced in Congress aimed at helping workers who lose their jobs to outsourcing,

NOW, THEREFORE ,BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls for a major federal investment, including promulgation of new programs, direct funding, tax credits for employers and other appropriate mechanisms to create apprenticeship programs to train high-school age children and young adults for high-skill, technologically advanced jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should use tax breaks and other incentives to keep high-skill, well paying manufacturing jobs in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in any legislation that addresses outsourcing, the United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to include provisions to provide resources to local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards for training and retraining workers.

H-1B Skills Training Grants

WHEREAS, the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program was established in 1998 to address the shortage of skilled workers in the United States, and was enhanced in 2000 with H.R. 5362, which raised the fee charged to employers who petition for H-1B foreign workers from \$500 to \$1,000 of which fifty-five percent funds the H1-B Technical Skills Training Grants, and *the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act of 2000* (AC21 2000), which increased the number of H-1B temporary workers to 195,000 for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2003; and

WHEREAS, the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program-administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) -- has offered thousands of Americans the opportunity to learn and master the skills necessary to acquire jobs that will provide upward mobility and long-term job retention; and

WHEREAS, reviews of the H-1B Skills Grants program by the Government Accounting Office and the Office of Inspector General, indicate that these grants are accomplishing what Congress intended and affirm and strengthen the value of the program; and

WHEREAS, by providing grants to local governments, workforce boards and other entities across the country, the H-1B program has enabled cities in urban and rural areas to meet the needs of their business communities by providing more highly skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, as of September 30, 2003, the \$1,000 fee placed on employers was eliminated because the legislation which authorizes the H-1B program, AC21 2000, expired and has not been extended or reauthorized, and the H1-B visa level was reduced from the current cap of 195,000 to 65,000, and there is still \$100 million for the H-1B Skills Grants program generated from employer fees; and

WHEREAS, effective on January 16 of this year, the Department of Labor (DOL) canceled the solicitation for grant application for H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants that was published in the January 6, 2003 Federal Register

and stated that DOL would review applications received prior to this cancellation to consider possible funding for those found eligible; and

WHEREAS, on February 2 of this year, in their FY 2005 Budget proposal, the Bush Administration proposed to eliminate the H-1B Skills Training Grants program and to rescind a \$100 million of the funding currently available for these grants which was intended to fund approximately 33 additional grants estimated at \$3 million each; and

WHEREAS, canceling the grant solicitation for available H-1B Skills Grants funds and eliminating the H-1B program will do away with an important job training program that strengthens America's own workforce, and lessens dependency on foreign workers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the Bush Administration's elimination of the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors opposes rescinding funds from the H-1B program in the FY 2005 Budget proposal and calls on the Department of Labor to use the \$100 million available in H-1B employer fees to fund H-1B Skills Training Grants as was intended by Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for any reauthorization of the H-1B program and or any legislation applying to a nonresident foreign worker program, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to continue the technical skills training grants program awarded to local governments and local workforce boards and funded by employer fees at a level of at least a \$1,000 fee.

LOCAL LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

WHEREAS, a key task of any locally-based, demand driven workforce system is to understand the fundamental industrial and occupational structure of local labor markets and local/regional labor market trends, identify those industry/occupational segments that are leading the growth, identify key skill/training issues, assess the adequacy of labor supply to those segments and devise strategies to effectively respond to the skills needs of employment sectors in local and metropolitan labor markets; and

WHEREAS, there are sharp differences in demographic developments, local economic performance, and the magnitude and nature of labor market problems confronting each of the sub-markets of the economy; and

WHEREAS, locally-based labor market research data for use by local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and other public and private stakeholders to address the needs that are unique to their markets and to make sound decisions regarding their workforce is not available in a timely and useful manner; and

WHEREAS, not only is accurate, timely, and useful labor market data essential at the local level, it is critical for making funding and other determinations under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which authorizes the locally-based workforce system, and other federal programs; and

WHEREAS, the national data on unemployment does not truly reflect the unemployment picture in local areas and at the national level; and

WHEREAS, there is concern that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is still using old data to make funding and other determinations rather than the most up to date data, including the 2000 census data; and

WHEREAS, as the nation continues to face high levels of unemployment, particularly in cities and among youth, the resources and support provided to the locally-based workforce system will impact our national economy and global competitiveness in an unprecedented way; and

WHEREAS, further, as the economy moves into recovery, the underlying skills shortage for high-growth jobs will impede economic growth unless addressed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to provide resources and support for locally-based labor market research data and make investments in better data collection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Labor to use the most recent data available, including data collected as the result of the 2000 census or newer data, in the determination of state and local funding decisions, and such other activities and functions that require the use of data for carrying out the requirements of WIA.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PRE-CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, in 2002, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted 4.9 million people, including 2.7 million children, above the poverty line-more than any other federal aid program; and

WHEREAS, currently, the value of the EITC credit is \$36 billion, to the benefit of 22 million hard working, low income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the EITC represents money earned by hard working, low income families and in no way represents a give-away; and

WHEREAS, the EITC provides enormous economic benefit to our communities because recipients spend their EITC dollars on goods and services within our communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond reducing poverty, the EITC promotes work, reduces income inequity and helps low income working families build assets; and

WHEREAS, despite great opposition from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, members of Congress and many national organizations, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) implemented a new "certification" process in December 2003 which required 25,000 EITC applicants to be "certified" before they could receive their EITC benefits; and

WHEREAS, the IRS plans to "pre-certify" an additional 25,000 EITC applicants in July 2004 prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the extensive documentation required for this pre-certification may be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain within the proposed six month deadline and will inevitably deter many eligible families from even applying for the EITC benefit to which they are entitled under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the complications of the "pre-certification" process will inevitably cause delays in EITC refunds of such filers, refunds that families count on for basic living expenses; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has indicated that it may expand the "pre-certification" requirements to approximately two million filers for the coming filing seasons, and do so prior to knowing the initial impact of these requirements through a comprehensive evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the IRS appears to be targeting low income working families applying for the EITC benefit while not requiring pre-certification for tax shelters purchased by corporations or tax benefits claimed by higher income individuals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to address any delays in tax returns that EITC filers have experienced due to the certification and pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the IRS initiative to continue and expand the EITC pre-certification procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to prohibit any further implementation of new EITC requirements without proper Congressional authorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the IRS to simplify EITC so that all those who are eligible can and will apply for their justly deserved tax credit.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR AMERICORPS

WHEREAS, since 1994, more than 350,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing valuable assistance to millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members tutor in schools, run after-school programs, build affordable housing, and provide public health services; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of AmeriCorps state and local programs clean rivers and streams, enrich after-school programs, support local law enforcement, deliver services to the elderly, and meet other critical needs defined by the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps programs have expanded their work in public safety, public health, fire prevention, and disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, cities have been able to benefit from AmeriCorps members recruiting, training and leading service opportunities for everyday citizens and traditional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, a 1995 independent cost-benefit study, validated by the U.S. Government Accounting Office, found that programs supported by AmeriCorps return between \$1.60 and \$2.60 in services for every dollar invested in their initiatives; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps is a major asset to America's cities, and The US Conference of Mayors is deeply committed to its success and future; and

WHEREAS, The Corporation for National and Community Service has been instructed by Congress, the President, and its Board of Directors to conduct a federal rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, regulatory changes have the potential to either draw on a decade of best practices, leveraging competition and private sector support, or unravel some of the fundamental principles that have shaped the national service infrastructure in America; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps programs leverage millions of dollars from the private sector to support community needs, the viability of the private sector is not consistent throughout the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Corporation for National and Community Service to avoid policy changes that will negatively impact the quality and consistency of service in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on local governments and the private sector to be active participants in AmeriCorps, but urges the Corporation to continue its commitment by investing in this highly effective public/private partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Corporation to avoid a mandatory increase in the match requirement above the 33 percent level currently required by the Corporation for National and Community Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Corporation to let competition govern the grant process by not setting time limits on the number of years AmeriCorps programs could receive federal support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that the Corporation maintain the current statutory requirements for the federal share of healthcare and childcare costs to preserve equal access to AmeriCorps for all Americans, regardless of income level.

**RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THE
AMERICAN WAR MOTHERS ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, the American War Mothers is a patriotic organization formally established in 1918 and originally composed of mothers whose sons and daughters served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress chartered the American War Mothers as a national organization in February 1925, and later expanded its membership to mothers whose sons and daughters had served in wars in which the U.S. was engaged after World War I, including World War II, the Korean Conflict, and any subsequent wars or conflicts involving the United States; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the organization are to "keep alive and develop the spirit that prompted world service, to maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service, and to assist and further any patriotic work; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to work for the welfare of the Armed Forces of the United States; to assist in any way in their power men and women who served and were wounded or incapacitated in World Wars or Conflicts of the United States; to foster and promote friendship and understanding between American and the Allies;" and

WHEREAS, the American War Mothers is a non-political, non-sectarian, non-partisan, and non-profit organization limited to women who are citizens of the United States, whose sons and daughters served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. or its Allies in World War I, World War II, and Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, or any subsequent wars or conflicts, and were honorably discharged,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its support for the organization entitled American War Mothers for the sacrifice of mothers whose children have defended their country in time of war and conflict and for the goals of the organization, which promote patriotism, commitment to the community and nation, support of the Armed Forces of the United States, and the promotion of friendship and understanding in the world.