

MEDIA ALERT

June 1, 2011

50,000 Residents Could Lose Assistance: SAVE LIHEAP
Legislators, charities, community agencies, businesses and LIHEAP recipients plead for Congress to save essential energy assistance program

News Conference
Wednesday, June 8, 2011
1:30 p.m.
John J. Hainkel Room, Louisiana State Capitol

Baton Rouge, La. – Wednesday, June 8, 2011, 1:30 p.m., Sen. Sharon Weston Broome will stand alongside charities, service providers and low income advocates from across Louisiana to demand that Congress support full funding of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Congress currently proposes a 50 percent, or \$2.6 billion, cut to LIHEAP, an essential safety-net program for the elderly and hard-working Americans who are now unemployed by the national recession. This proposed reduction hurts Louisiana worse than other states by cutting more than 67 percent to Louisiana's LIHEAP allocation. Assistance to more than 50,000 Louisiana households would be eliminated.

The Legislature passed by unanimous consent Senate Concurrent Resolution 33, asking Louisiana's Congressional Delegation to fully fund LIHEAP for at-risk Louisianans and declaring June 2011 as "Save LIHEAP Month." The resolution was authored by Broome (D-Baton Rouge) and co-authored by Sens. John Alario Jr. (R-Westwego), Conrad Appel (R-Metairie), A.G. Crowe (R-Slidell), Daniel Martiny (R-Metairie), Michael Michot (R-Lafayette), John Smith (R-Leesville) and Francis Thompson (D-Delhi).

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