

By Senator Lawson

6-01828-09

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution commending the invaluable contribution of  
3 Florida's Community Action Agencies to the well-being  
4 of low-income residents of this state and recognizing  
5 March 24, 2009, as "Community Action Day" in Florida.  
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7 WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies were created to fight  
8 the war on poverty when the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was  
9 signed into law, and

10 WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies are the backbone of  
11 America's poverty-fighting network, having a 45-year history of  
12 promoting family economic security and self-sufficiency for low-  
13 income families, children, and individuals, and

14 WHEREAS, there are more than 1,000 Community Action  
15 Agencies nationally, with 31 Community Action Agencies  
16 supporting 65 of the 67 counties in Florida, and

17 WHEREAS, the 2007 American Community Survey released by the  
18 United States Census Bureau reported that more than 38 million  
19 Americans are living below the federal poverty level and that  
20 Florida has 2,158,832 people living below the poverty level,  
21 ranking 25th nationally in this regard, and

22 WHEREAS, Florida has a 7.3 percent unemployment rate, which  
23 is higher than the national average, and the fourth-highest  
24 foreclosure rate in the nation, with nearly 1 in 10 Floridians  
25 receiving food stamps, and

26 WHEREAS, to combat these alarming statistics, Florida's  
27 Community Action Agencies provided services to 278,430  
28 individuals and 128,151 families in 2007, and

29 WHEREAS, in 2007, Community Action Agencies assisted 384

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30 low-income individuals in completing postsecondary education  
31 requirements, 6,712 low-income individuals in obtaining  
32 preemployment skills, 2,625 unemployed persons in securing  
33 employment, and 1,319 under-employed individuals in increasing  
34 their employment income, and

35 WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies, will continue to  
36 provide low-income residents with opportunities to improve their  
37 lives and their living conditions through innovative and cost-  
38 efficient programs, thus ensuring that all individuals are able  
39 to live in dignity, and

40 WHEREAS, it is predicted that as a result of the staggering  
41 economic downturn of 2008, unemployment and poverty could reach  
42 double digits both statewide and nationally in 2009, and

43 WHEREAS, because the war on poverty will become an even  
44 more formidable problem in our communities, it is fitting to  
45 recognize and commend the Community Action Agencies that are at  
46 the forefront of this struggle, NOW, THEREFORE,

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48 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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50 That in recognition of the hard work, commitment, and  
51 dedication of Florida's Community Action Agencies and their  
52 invaluable contributions to the well-being of the low-income  
53 residents throughout the state, March 24, 2009, is recognized as  
54 "Community Action Day" in Florida.