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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 335

Senate Amendments in [] — February 7, 1995

Memorializing Congress to oppose efforts to eliminate Senior Nutrition Programs under the Older Americans Act.

Patrons—Holland, E.M., Andrews, Gartlan and Walker

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility Act, a bill introduced in the United States Congress, includes provisions that would consolidate all nutrition programs into block grants to the states with funding reduced to 95 percent of their Fiscal Year 1995 appropriation level; and

WHEREAS, this block grant would include the food stamp program, the school lunch program, the Women, Infant and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC), and the Senior Nutrition components of the Older Americans Act; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Nutrition Program has two service components: 1) meals at congregate sites as the base for a comprehensive program of wellness and recreation activities, educational programs and access to other services, and 2) home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels); and

WHEREAS, the Senior Nutrition Programs are a fundamental part of a comprehensive service system aimed at keeping older people at home, supporting family caregivers, and avoiding unnecessary and costly institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, although the current program is not means-tested, it does serve those with the greatest economic need and maintains the dignity of participants by providing mechanisms for participants to contribute according to their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Senior Nutrition Programs have been long established in the community and are supported through a vast network of volunteers of all ages and through case and in-kind support from the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Senior Nutrition Programs are time-tested, successful examples of low cost, locally managed programs; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Nutrition Program is consumer focused and has broad community support due to its flexibility and its role as point-of-contact and link to the broader aging services system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the U.S. Congress be urged to maintain the integrity of the already established comprehensive aging service system by [~~defeating~~ deleting the portion of] the bill that would remove the Senior Nutrition Programs from this service system [, thereby preserving the integrity of the Older Americans Act] ; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia.

ENGROSSED

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