STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 29

By: Dickerson of the Senate

and

Corn, Mass and Matlock of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution praising the LeFlore County Department of Human Services for their extraordinary dedication and service to their community during this year's ice storms; congratulating them upon their nomination for the Governor's Quality Award; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in January 2001, the President of the United States declared numerous counties in Oklahoma a federal disaster area as the result of a tremendous ice storm. The federal government authorized the disaster food stamp program for the counties affected, including LeFlore County, Oklahoma. On January 16, 2001, the LeFlore County Department of Human Services began issuing disaster-related food stamps to families in need. This was the first disaster-related program that the LeFlore County Department of Human Services staff had experienced; and

WHEREAS, the disaster food stamp program was authorized for citizens living in the affected area at the time of the ice storm who experienced storm-related losses. LeFlore County citizens who experienced food loss due to power outages and property damage caused by the ice storm were seeking federal aid for these unexpected losses; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the disaster food stamp program, a plan was advanced to guarantee an organized and structured

procedure. To ensure eligibility requirements were met and errors were prevented, a screening and interviewing process was developed using the guidelines for the disaster food stamp program established by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, a total of 54 Department of Human Services employees assigned to the Poteau office accumulated nearly 2,300 hours of overtime during the 13-day period. These workers labored an average of between 10 and 20 hours a day in order to meet the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the program reached nearly 50% of LeFlore County residents. There were almost 8,000 household applications, representing more than 23,000 individuals. Of the total number of applicants, less than 400 had their applications denied. The total dollar amount for food stamps issued in LeFlore County for this purpose in January 2001 was nearly $2.5 million, or almost $330 per household, exceeding the total dollar amount for food stamps issued for the entire previous year; and

WHEREAS, the LeFlore County Department of Human Services, with support from other community agencies, businesses, and volunteers, successfully and efficiently orchestrated the disaster food stamp program for thirteen days. The unwavering dedication and commitment to caring for those in need gained the Department of Human Services great respect from the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises the LeFlore County Department of Human Services for their extraordinary dedication and service to the community during this year's ice storms.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature congratulates the LeFlore County Department of Human Services for their nomination for the

Governor's Quality Award based upon their effective and efficient response during this natural disaster.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the LeFlore County Department of Human Services.

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