

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1045

By: Shelton

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution relating to poverty; calling for the
8 formation of a statewide commission and center on
9 poverty and economic security to address poverty
10 across the state; and stating purpose.

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12 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has the seventh highest poverty
13 rate in the country with 15.9% of its population in poverty; and

14 WHEREAS, 1 in 6 Oklahomans including 22.1% of children below the
15 age of 18 years live below the federal poverty level; and

16 WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau reports a poverty rate for women
17 in Oklahoma of 17.5% which was more than 3 percentage points higher
18 than for men. The figures indicate some 62% of Oklahomans in
19 poverty are white, more than double the rates for Hispanics,
20 African-Americans, and Native Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, 646,000 or 18.4% of Oklahomans live without health
22 insurance coverage leading to higher premiums for covered Oklahomans
23 and increased poverty, homelessness, and crime; and
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1 WHEREAS, there is much that can be done to alleviate poverty in
2 Oklahoma and the time is right for the State of Oklahoma to take a
3 studied approach to the issue.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

6 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives calls for the
7 formation of a statewide commission and center on poverty and
8 economic security to address poverty across this state and to
9 ascertain the approaches Oklahoma can successfully employ to
10 alleviate poverty and help families achieve economic security.

11 THAT such a commission and center would assess poverty
12 continuously across the state, evaluate the current interface of
13 federal, state, and local resources, and develop recommendations for
14 the effective use of state resources.

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