

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

WHEREAS, employers in Missouri cut sixty-two thousand six hundred payroll positions in 2009; and

WHEREAS, from December 2008 to December 2009, the unemployment rate in Missouri grew from seven and one-tenth percent to nine and six-tenths percent; and

WHEREAS, Missouri has an uninsured rate of approximately eighteen percent; and

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-five thousand Missourians lost health insurance in 2009 due to the rise in unemployment; and

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately fourteen thousand homeless children in Missouri, and the number of homeless people in Missouri is growing; and

WHEREAS, the safety net of services for Missouri's most vulnerable citizens who are hungry, homeless, ill, or at-risk is imperiled by funding cuts and a reduced charitable-giving base; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is facing a projected budget gap for fiscal year 2012 of 1.2 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2011, Missouri is using 1.2 billion dollars in federal stabilization funds to fill budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's revenues dropped approximately fifteen percent from 2008 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, since the 2009 legislative session, over one billion dollars has been cut from Missouri's budget; and

WHEREAS, further budget cuts will only deter consumer demand, discourage private industry activity, lead to higher unemployment, and hamper overall economic growth; and

WHEREAS, workers across the state face the dire prospect of job loss during a time of economic uncertainty:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress take proactive steps to create jobs and enact fiscal relief for state and local governments to foster growth, avoid further budget catastrophe, ensure that states perform the core functions that all American families deserve and deliver jobs to Americans on main street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any job creation and state fiscal relief plan should include extending the federal medical assistance payments or "federal match" increase for medicaid, provide additional support for education, boost funding for infrastructure projects and public transportation investments, support the long-term unemployed to sustain them until they reenter the workforce, and provide direct financial assistance to state and local governments so that they may provide the vital services needed to maintain growth in local communities across the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Missouri's congressional delegation.