



SOUTHERN
GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

**Resolution Regarding Reauthorization
of the
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program**

Sponsored by Governors Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Bob Wise of West Virginia
Approved February 26, 2002
Southern Governors' Association Winter Meeting
Washington, D.C.

Whereas, Congress reformed public assistance in the United States in 1996 with the creation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA);

Whereas, states have achieved historic gains over the past five years moving people into work and toward self-sufficiency;

Whereas, the final result of TANF has been historically high employment rates for single mothers, historically low minority child poverty rates, historically low numbers of families receiving public assistance and the continued leveling off of the rate of out-of-wedlock births;

Whereas, reauthorization of TANF this year provides an opportunity to build upon the strong foundation that was laid in 1996; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the southern governors call on Congress to maintain its commitment to funding for the TANF block grant at \$16.5 billion and oppose the creation of unfunded mandates, ear-marks and set-asides;

Resolved, that the southern governors call on Congress to not undermine the success of the program by diverting the program's focus from work;

Resolved, that the southern governors call on Congress to fund supplemental grants by providing level funding for the current 17 supplemental grant states, to add new funding to compensate any new state that qualifies incorporating the most recent population data and to compensate any qualifying territory;

Resolved, that the southern governors call on Congress to maintain and, where appropriate, provide additional flexibility to states to administer their TANF programs; and

Resolved, that the southern governors call on Congress to fulfill its commitments made in 1996 to support programs, such as the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).