



The Honorable Michael Pence
Office of the Governor
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

March 18, 2014

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Dear Governor Pence:

On behalf of the Indiana Coalition for Human Services, a statewide coalition of direct service providers and advocacy organizations that serve vulnerable Hoosiers, ***we respectfully request your veto of Senate Enrolled Act 340*** (Demand Side Management Programs).

Outright elimination of the Energizing Indiana program will cause undue harm to the vulnerable populations which our members serve. The low-income qualified weatherization program provides a funding stream to weatherize homes heated and cooled with electricity. According to a study by Purdue, the income qualified weatherization program is projected to lower bills for participating low income consumers by an average \$437 per year.

Since the inception of the program through January 31 of this year, Energizing Indiana has assisted over 17,500 Hoosier households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level in reducing the burden of energy costs, which in turn helps to reduce the tough financial decisions these households often face. Furthermore, over 6,100 of these households survive on less than \$15,000 a year in annual income, while an additional 5,500 households that were served sustain themselves on less than \$30,000 a year.

Energy efficiency programs are the only utility service offerings that actually reduce costs to ratepayers. Everything else comes with a price. Energy efficiency programs help mitigate costs and reduce the need for future investments that often have a very high price tag, which low-income ratepayers can least afford.

Low-income weatherization programs offer significant non-energy benefits that go beyond reducing customer bills. Utilities and their ratepayers benefit if low-income customers can pay their bills more easily, yielding fewer arrearages and disconnections. Additionally, late payments and disconnections damage credit, which impedes a family's financial stability. Finally, improved home comfort and safety is valuable to low-income households and plays a dramatic role in improving their quality of life.

With all of these things in mind, we hope that the Energizing Indiana program will be allowed to continue its work and continue to provide benefits to low income Hoosiers. If additional analysis is needed about this relatively new program's effectiveness, then we recommend that the low-income weatherization programs and energy assessments continue while an evaluation is conducted and improvements are recommended. Please veto SEA 340.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/
Mark Fairchild
President

/s/
David Sklar
Vice President