

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR LUNEAU AND REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS AND MIKE JOHNSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the federal Office of Management and Budget to retain the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) with a minimum population of fifty thousand.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee has recommended that the Office of Management and Budget of the United States Government change the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas from a minimum population of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand; and

WHEREAS, raising the minimum Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) population cutoff from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand would remove the MSA designation from Alexandria, Louisiana, and Hammond, Louisiana, as well as over one hundred forty other cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, raising the minimum population cutoff would undermine the consistency in the collection and tabulation of federal statistics; and

WHEREAS, according to the federal General Accounting Office, raising the minimum population for MSA's would likely result in a loss of eligibility for funding from three dozen federal programs for communities needing it most, including Alexandria and Hammond; and

WHEREAS, interrupting the flow of funding from the federal Community Development Block Grant program would be catastrophic to the poorest neighborhoods of Alexandria and Hammond, impacting the ability to reduce blight, decrease lead hazards, renovate dilapidated residences, and develop safer, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, losing funding from federal rural development programs and eligibility for certain grants to regional planning organizations to improve infrastructure would be harmful to central and southeastern Louisiana, especially during the pandemic recovery period; and

WHEREAS, losing eligibility for federal loans for broadband expansion in rural areas would be particularly harmful for Alexandria, Hammond, and surrounding areas and would impede economic growth; and

WHEREAS, a reduction of reimbursement from the federal Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System would severely financially impact acute care hospitals and their ability to serve the people of Alexandria and Hammond as well as people in multi-parish areas surrounding these cities; and

WHEREAS, raising the minimum MSA population would do little to return the population balance between metropolitan and micropolitan areas back to the even split that existed when the MSA's were first conceived more than seventy years ago, but would create unwarranted changes on the distribution of federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, maintaining consistency in the MSA program is also helpful for local governments and businesses that depend on long-term trend data to better understand the economies in these areas, providing the tools to easily compare changes in labor markets and an area's economic conditions; and

WHEREAS, long term data sets are also helpful for local governments as they implement policies to raise unemployment rates and administer aid during the economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is particularly important to nurture pro-growth policies for businesses, families, and communities as we collectively work on the economic recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Office of Management and Budget of the United States Government to reject the recommendation by the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee to change the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas from a minimum population of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Office of Management and Budget of the United States Government to retain the current Standard for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas at a minimum population of fifty thousand.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert S. Fairweather, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, and Dominic Mancini, Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES