

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sense of the legislature concerning utilization of federal funds and operation
3 of federal programs for the good of the public.

4 WHEREAS, federal funding and programs provide a wide array of services to the
5 people of this state; and

6 WHEREAS, transportation, education, health care, nutrition assistance, disaster
7 recovery, environmental protection, and the infrastructure that supports commerce and
8 economic vitality are all examples of programs, services, and investments in our state that
9 receive major support from federal funds; and

10 WHEREAS, over thirty nine and one-half percent of all revenue included in
11 Louisiana's 2015-2016 executive budget is comprised of federal funding; and

12 WHEREAS, as it has been historically, among several revenue sources, federal
13 funding comprises the largest share of revenue in the executive budget of this state for the
14 coming year, as its thirty nine and one-half percent share is greater than that of each of the
15 eight other types of revenue included in the state budget; and

16 WHEREAS, regardless of differences in political philosophy, legislators and
17 statewide elected officials in the executive branch share responsibility for directing the
18 expenditure of public resources derived from taxes and other sources for the purposes of
19 providing public services and achieving the public good; and

1 WHEREAS, each legislator and executive branch official has this duty concerning
2 state fiscal matters irrespective of whether he believes that the amount of taxpayer dollars
3 to be expended by state government is too high, too low, or at the optimal level; and

4 WHEREAS, it is fiscally irresponsible for any single public official to turn away
5 significant amounts of federal funding for programs or services which would clearly and
6 indisputably serve a vital public interest by improving access to health care in this state,
7 especially when doing so may be a contributing factor in a public university of this state
8 having to file for financial exigency; and

9 WHEREAS, it is all the more irresponsible for any single public official to turn away
10 significant amounts of federal funding for a specific program which a reliable nonpartisan
11 fiscal analysis shows will produce significant state general fund savings resulting from
12 acceptance of such federal funding for the program.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 express its sense that a public official who unilaterally exercises the powers of his office in
15 order to reject federal funding that, as indicated by the Legislative Fiscal Office, would have
16 resulted in state general fund savings of over one hundred million dollars in any fiscal year
17 has abused the powers of his office.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby further
19 express its sense that should the governor of this state abuse the powers of his office through
20 rejection of federal funding under financially exigent circumstances as described above, then
21 the lieutenant governor shall have the authority to accept such previously rejected funding
22 on behalf of this state.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the authority to accept federal funding as
24 provided in this Resolution devolves to the lieutenant governor and the lieutenant governor
25 rejects or refuses to act to accept such funding, then the authority to accept such funding
26 shall devolve to the legislature, which may act to accept such funding in accordance with
27 applicable provisions of law and rules of legislative procedure.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the commissioner of administration.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 215 Original	2015 Regular Session	Hunter
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Expresses the sense of the legislature that a public official who unilaterally rejects federal funding that would have resulted in state general fund savings of over \$100,000,000 in any fiscal year has abused the powers of his office.