

Senator George offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 6.

A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to tie the federal economic stimulus package distribution to the unemployment rate in each state and to provide that those states with the highest unemployment rates receive a higher percentage of federal funds.

Whereas, Our nation, and the state of Michigan in particular, is facing an economic crisis, the depth and breadth of which has not been seen since the time of the Great Depression. In response to this crisis, the President of the United States and the Congress are crafting an economic stimulus package designed to help fix the economy; and

Whereas, With Michigan's historic reliance on the manufacturing industry, our state's economic struggles were a precursor to the nation's current economic troubles. Michigan has led the nation with the country's highest unemployment rate and one of the highest home foreclosure rates. The Great Lakes State has lost more than one-half million jobs so far this decade. These Michigan job losses account for roughly 20 percent of the nation's total job losses. Clearly, federal assistance is necessary to help Michigan fix its economic engine and drive the nation's economy back to full strength. Given the severity of Michigan's economic downturn, our state should be given priority in the distribution of federal stimulus dollars; and

Whereas, Indeed, the entire federal stimulus package should be tied to the rate of the states' unemployment rates. This would help assure that the federal investment would go where it is most desperately needed. Targeting federal infrastructure investment and other economic stimulus tools to the states with the highest historic unemployment rates will clearly pay the highest dividends for our nation's economic recovery; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide that the federal economic stimulus package be tied to the unemployment rate in each state and to provide that those states with the highest unemployment rates receive a higher percentage of federal funds; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan House delegation, and, in particular, Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow.