

RESOLUTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the number of unfunded federal mandates on counties and cities have significantly increased during the last decade, while many federal programs, which were made available to local governments to ease the burden of carrying out federal mandates, have been terminated or drastically reduced; and

WHEREAS, such mandates stem from federal laws and regulations that require counties and cities to provide services and programs, and perform certain responsibilities without providing federal funding for such services; and

WHEREAS, by shifting costs to counties and cities, unfunded federal mandates breach the underlying principles of federalism which assumes a working partnership and shared responsibilities between the federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, American citizens are unaware of the impact of unfunded mandates on local services and their own local taxes; and

WHEREAS, risk assessment is an essential component to any cost-benefit analysis of mandates and should be included in all bills that impose mandates on counties and cities:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Martin County urges Congress and the Administration to enact legislation that would relieve counties and cities of all obligations to carry out any new mandate arising from federal law, regulation or policy unless federal funds are provided; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration are urged to enact legislation to reimburse local governments for the costs of complying with existing federal mandates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration are urged to include in any future mandate, a provision that requires departments and agencies to provide scientifically sound assessments of purported health, safety or environmental risk prior to the imposition of any new mandate on local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Martin County supports a "National Unfunded Mandates Day" to be held October 27, 1993, during which county officials in all counties will be urged to hold press conferences in coordination with local and state officials to draw public attention to the problems imposed on counties by unfunded federal mandates.

ATTEST:

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