



For Immediate Release
04/25/2008

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House approves Baker's Utilicare legislation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The House of Representatives yesterday approved legislation sponsored by state Rep. Judy Baker that increases the amount of money available through the Utilicare program for energy assistance to low-income Missourians. Baker, D-Columbia, added the Utilicare provision to an omnibus utilities bill that subsequently won final House passage.

“With this legislation, fewer Missouri families will have to choose between utilities and groceries,” Baker said. “As energy costs continue to rise, senior citizens and other low-income Missourians are finding it increasingly difficult to pay their utility bills. Utilicare is a lifeline for thousands of Missouri families.”

Baker's amendment doubles the overall Utilicare funding cap to \$10 million a year from the current \$5 million, which was last increased in 1979. It also raises the cap on individual assistance to \$800 a year per family from \$600 annually.

The House will now send the bill, HB 2279, to the Senate for further consideration.

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