

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.37

Senators Ananich and Stamas offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare opposition to the excessive fees
2 sought by the plaintiffs' attorneys in the Flint water crisis
3 settlement.

4 Whereas, The city of Flint changed their municipal water
5 supply source on April 25, 2014, which caused pipes to corrode and
6 release contaminants into the drinking water. A state of emergency
7 was declared on January 16, 2016, and in October 2016, Flint
8 residents were advised not to drink tap water unless it had been
9 filtered to remove lead; and

10 Whereas, Studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control
11 and Prevention and others to assess the contaminated drinking water
12 revealed increased bacteria levels, elevated lead content, and
13 other serious health concerns, as well as ongoing behavioral issues

1 particularly among those under 18 years of age, the timing of which
2 indicated direct connections to the municipal water supply switch.
3 An estimated 14,000 children under the age of 6 were exposed to
4 lead in their drinking water; and

5 Whereas, A \$641.25 million settlement in the Flint water
6 crisis lawsuit is currently moving forward, with nearly 80 percent
7 of the allotted compensation ultimately awarded going to Flint
8 residents who were under 18 years of age during the crisis as these
9 individuals bear a disproportionate share of lasting health and
10 behavioral effects from the disastrous water supply change; and

11 Whereas, Attorney fees of \$202 million have been requested,
12 which total more than 31 percent of the total settlement amount and
13 would take away more than \$160 million from the settlement fund for
14 the children of Flint; and

15 Whereas, Funds in this record-setting settlement first and
16 foremost should go to Flint children and families who have had
17 their lives changed forever by the decisions made during this
18 crisis, not to trial attorneys; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the Senate, That we declare our opposition to the
20 excessive fees sought by the plaintiffs' attorneys in the Flint
21 water crisis settlement.