

16 APR -5 PM 3:17

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1809 INTRODUCED BY ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATTY LOPEZ TO REFORM THE ASSET LIMIT FOR THE CALIFORNIA WORKS OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CAL-WORKS) PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO SAVE AND DEVELOP BEHAVIORS THAT LEAD TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND IT REDUCES ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCIES

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 1809, would repeal the asset test for the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs); and

WHEREAS, currently, families on CalWORKs find their progress restricted by an asset limit, which confines families to no more than \$2,250 in savings, excluding some retirement and higher education savings, and one car, with an equity value of no more than \$9,500; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the CalWORKs program is to move families out of poverty and towards economic self-sufficiency and a major component of financial self-sufficiency and stability is having savings; and

WHEREAS, the asset limit restricts families who are working their way off of public assistance from setting aside savings in order to remain eligible for temporary assistance; and

WHEREAS, CalWORKs recipients are fearful of saving because they believe that even a small amount of emergency savings will make them appear less in need of assistance and as a result, these families lack the savings needed to cope with common financial setbacks, such as a car breakdown or a child with a medical emergency; and

WHEREAS, recent research found that only .1% of total CalWORKs cases are disqualified because they exceed cash and vehicle asset limits but county workers are required to screen all applicants and recipients to verify their eligibility under the rule; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that eliminating the asset test will result in \$6.4 million in administrative savings; and

WHEREAS, removal of the asset test will free up much needed staff resources towards supporting families economic goals and sends a clear message to CalWORKs families that savings is important and encouraged; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That AB 1809 would remove penalties for saving, increase government efficiency and is an important step towards helping low-income Californians achieve financial stability; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland supports AB 1809 to reform the asset limit for the Cal-WORKS program as to encourage low-income families to save and develop practices that lead to economic self-sufficiency.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN,
REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES –
ABSENT –
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California