

2013 NOV - 8 AM 10:33
RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CHANGES IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("SNAP," KNOWN AS CAL FRESH) IN THE 2013 FARM BILL (H.R. 2642, S. 954), INCLUDING CUTS TO 4.2 MILLION CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS AND 33,747 OAKLAND HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN SNAP/CAL FRESH, AND ANY REDUCTIONS IN ELIGIBILITY, BENEFITS, OR STATE AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY.

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of the State's recipients of SNAP/Cal Fresh benefits are children; and

WHEREAS, the changes proposed in the 2013 Farm Bill would have devastating effects on Oakland children and families, who would lose an average of \$295.20 in benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, SNAP/Cal Fresh mitigates the impact of poverty and poor health have on our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2013 Farm Bill would unwisely eliminate waivers to 1.7 million childless adults - who live in high-unemployment areas - but who are working part-time or participating in work training program, many of whom are veterans or former foster youth; and

WHEREAS, broad eligibility of SNAP/Cal Fresh is critical to ensuring that formerly incarcerated individuals, who have already paid their debt to society, are not excluded from such social services simply due to past transgressions; and

WHEREAS, the flexibility of SNAP/Cal Fresh currently allows for benefits to be spent in farmers markets, to which this local spending power returns dollars directly into our local economies; and

WHEREAS, economists conclude that immediate spending in local economies generates at least \$1.70 in economic activity for every \$1 expended. Last year alone, SNAP is estimated to have put over \$7 billion into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Agriculture Committees must approve the 2013 Farm Bill by December 12, 2013; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City of Oakland opposes the cuts to benefits, limits on eligibility, and restrictions on flexibility in the 2013 Farm Bill (H.R. 2642, S. 954) ; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Oakland hereby directs the City Administrator and City's legislative lobbyist to advocate for the above position to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF and PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California