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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 87828 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAN KALB AND
COUNCILMEMBER SHENG THAO

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1022 (WICKS) THAT WOULD ESTABLISH THE CALIFORNIA ANTI-HUNGER RESPONSE AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (CARET) PROGRAM TO FIGHT HUNGER AND SUPPORT WORK AMONG INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN DETERMINED INELIGIBLE FOR THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

WHEREAS, four million Californians currently receive SNAP (CalFresh) nutrition assistance; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh is the state's most effective anti-hunger program, supporting the health of our low-income communities while also creating jobs and benefiting our state's food economy; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, federal welfare reform implemented strict time limits for CalFresh recipients ages 18 to 49 without dependent children who are considered fit to work, referred to as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs); and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 570,000 ABAWDs in California; and

WHEREAS, someone with ABAWD status is time limited to just three months of CalFresh within a 36-month period unless they:

1. Live in a state or county with an ABAWD waiver;
2. Work an average of 20 hours each week or participate in a qualifying employment and training program or workfare activity; or
3. Are granted an individual exemption; and

WHEREAS, due to declining unemployment rates, California lost its statewide waiver in 2018; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties have been required to reinstate ABAWD time limits, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Marin counties will lose their waivers in mid-2019, and the federal administration has proposed a rule to eliminate ABAWD waivers for all but three California counties; and

WHEREAS, such a rule would drastically restrict state flexibility to protect this highly vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that individuals likely to be cut off by the three-month limit have average monthly incomes of approximately 17 percent of the federal poverty level and typically qualify for no other income support; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 1022 (Wicks) would do the following:

- Establish the California Anti-Hunger Response and Employment Training (CARET) program to create an equivalent state-funded nutrition benefit for individuals who lose eligibility for federally-funded CalFresh due to the ABAWD time limit;
- Allow that same population to continue accessing CalFresh Employment and Training programs to support work;
- Direct the Department of Social Services to issue guidance to maximize use of the individual waivers available in federal law; and

WHEREAS, AB 1022 is supported by numerous groups and organizations, including, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Bay Area Legal Aid, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Banks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses AB 1022 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

JUL 16 2019

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN *-8*

NOES - *0*

ABSENT - *0*

ABSTENTION - *0*

ATTEST:



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