

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal block grant program that provides funds to states for the provision of assistance to low income families including food, housing, childcare, and job training; and,

WHEREAS, those who are eligible for TANF assistance are also given eligibility for food assistance under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as food stamps, through "broad-based categorical assistance;" and,

WHEREAS, broad-based categorical eligibility reduces the bureaucracy between assistance and those who need it by allowing families to automatically qualify for SNAP benefits without going through an additional application and income eligibility process; and,

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a proposed rule change which would change the definition of "benefits" (in relation to broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP) to mean ongoing and substantial benefits, and restrict the non-cash assistance that would qualify recipients for categorical eligibility for SNAP to subsidized employment, work training, and child care; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed rule change would result in 3.1 million people in 43 states to lose their SNAP benefits and would further result in up to 265,000 children losing eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed change to the broad-based categorical eligibility is misguided and falsely justified by USDA as fraud prevention, fiscal responsibility, and aid to help families achieve self-sufficiency; and,

WHEREAS, several studies have found that fraud relating to SNAP is negligible and that broad-based eligibility provides assistance to those who may not have otherwise received them; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed change follows a pattern of austerity measures targeting vulnerable populations in the name of fiscal responsibility, despite the concurrent provision of tax benefits to corporations and the wealthy; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed rule change would result in millions of Americans being left without the means to pay for food, endangering the health and proper nutrition of needy families and taking benefits away from those who need them the most;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to USDA's proposed rule change relating to broad-based eligibility for SNAP which would change the definition of "benefits" to mean ongoing and substantial benefits and restrict the non-cash assistance which would qualify recipients for categorical eligibility for SNAP to subsidized employment, work training, and child care.



AUG 14 2019

PRESENTED BY: David Ryu
DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: Henry Kim

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