

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: October 9, 2019

To: Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency

From: *AC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Subject: Condemning the United States Department of Agriculture's Proposed Rule Change that Threatens Food Security (File No. 190954)

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On September 24, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 417-19, sponsored by Supervisor Shamann Walton (File No. 190954, Condemning the United States Department of Agriculture's Proposed Rule Change that Threatens Food Security), enacted on October 4, 2019.

Please find the attached copy of the Resolution for your department's information and consideration, which is being sent as directed by the Resolution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, Vallie Brown, Catherine Stefani, Gordon Mar, Sandra Lee Fewer, Norman Yee, Rafael Mandelman  
Krista Ballard, Human Services Agency

1 [Condemning the United States Department of Agriculture's Proposed Rule Change that  
2 Threatens Food Security]

3 **Resolution condemning a proposed rule change by the United States Department of**  
4 **Agriculture (USDA) that would end categorical eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition**  
5 **Assistance Program benefits and cause more than 3,000,000 people nationwide to be**  
6 **more food insecure; urging the USDA to withdraw said rule change; and asking the**  
7 **Human Services Agency to explain the negative effects such a change will cause.**

8  
9 WHEREAS, Food insecurity is a significant and growing concern in San Francisco  
10 County; and

11 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors have declared food as a basic human right and  
12 resolved to end hunger in the city by 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Food Security Task Force reports in 2018 that 226,520  
14 people were residents with income below 200% of the federal poverty level that are high-risk  
15 of food insecurity; and

16 WHEREAS, Food insecurity results in poorer physical, mental, and emotional health  
17 outcomes for children which follow them into adulthood and manifests in chronic health  
18 conditions; and

19 WHEREAS, The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is  
20 administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides food-  
21 purchasing assistance for low- and no-income individuals and families through state operated  
22 agencies and administered through county operated agencies; and

23 WHEREAS, SNAP is known and operated as CalFresh in California, which provided  
24 nutritional benefits to approximately 3,938,253 or about 10% of Californians through county  
25 agencies; and

1           WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services is the county agency for the  
2 administration of public social services, including CalFresh, which served 59,410 or about  
3 6.7% of San Francisco residents as of July 2019; and

4           WHEREAS, CalFresh and other nutrition supplement benefits are instrumental in  
5 decreasing poverty and unemployment, and thereby contributing to increased economic  
6 stability and mental, physical, and emotional health of families; and

7           WHEREAS, The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 established current regulations and  
8 protocol for the administration of SNAP, as well as the authority for the Secretary of the  
9 Department of Agriculture to determine standards by which the Secretary will judge eligibility  
10 for SNAP; and

11           WHEREAS, Judgement on eligibility changes that result in policy changes that reduce  
12 or discourage eligibility for CalFresh or any social benefit program results in increased hunger,  
13 illness, social instability, and crime; and

14           WHEREAS, On July 24, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture proposed  
15 new rules for SNAP, declaring that current eligibility screening was not robust and did not  
16 move families toward self-sufficiency; and

17           WHEREAS, The proposed rule change would significantly reduce or current definitions  
18 of categorical eligibility, where qualification for certain state programs would result in  
19 automatic qualification for SNAP; and

20           WHEREAS, Economic realities in California and other states require states to deem  
21 individuals and families in need "categorically eligible" for assistance programs in order to  
22 meet nutrition needs given the higher costs of living and the federal government's inadequate  
23 measurement of poverty; and

1           WHEREAS, The rule change would result in more than 3,000,000 people and families  
2 losing their food supplement, increasing hunger, stress, and all other negative effects of food  
3 insecurity; and

4           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns the rule change  
5 proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture; and, be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United  
7 States Department of Agriculture to rethink and cancel the enactment of said rule change;  
8 and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco reaffirms its  
10 commitment to food security as a human right; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns all  
12 policy changes that make it harder for people to feed their families; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will continue to  
14 work toward food security despite the federal government's decision to do otherwise; and, be  
15 it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the Director  
17 of the Human Services Agency to submit a comprehensive comment to the United States  
18 Department of Agriculture and the community describing the effects of the rule change on the  
19 food security efforts; and, be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
21 Human Services Agency, Federal Representatives in San Francisco, United States Secretary  
22 of Agriculture, and to the United States Department of Agriculture.



City and County of San Francisco  
Tails  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 190954

Date Passed: September 24, 2019

Resolution condemning a proposed rule change by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that would end categorical eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and cause more than 3,000,000 people nationwide to be more food insecure; urging the USDA to withdraw said rule change; and asking the Human Services Agency to explain the negative effects such a change will cause.

September 24, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 190954

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/24/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed  
Mayor

10/4/2019

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

10/4/2019

Date