

1 [Welfare Reform for Drug Felons]

2 URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO MODIFY SECTION 115 OF THE FEDERAL
3 WELFARE LEGISLATION WHICH BARS CONVICTED DRUG FELONS FROM RECEIVING
4 TANF AND FOOD STAMP BENEFITS.

5 WHEREAS, On August 23, 1996, President Clinton signed into law a welfare reform package;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, Section 115 of this legislation placed a lifetime ban on TANF and Food Stamp
8 benefits for convicted felons; and,

9 WHEREAS, This policy results in a disparate impact upon minorities because minorities
10 comprise a disproportionate percentage of drug felons as well as a disproportionate share of welfare
11 recipients; and,

12 WHEREAS, This policy results in a disparate impact upon single parents, almost all of whom
13 are women, because drug abusing women offenders, many of whom have children, constitute one of the
14 fastest growing segments within the criminal justice system; and,

15 WHEREAS, This single parent population is deterred from seeking treatment because of month-
16 long waiting lists and few programs providing accommodations for infants and children; and,

17 WHEREAS, The loss of the adult portion of welfare grant makes it likely that single parents
18 will be unable to care for their children; and,

19 WHEREAS, When single parents are unable to care for their children, state foster care costs will
20 increase; and,

21 WHEREAS, The federal welfare bill gave states the right to opt out of or to modify the federal
22 bill's drug felony provision; and,

23 WHEREAS, According to the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices,
24 thirty-two states, including California, opted in to the provision, eight states opted out, and ten states
25 modified the provision in some way; and,

SUPERVISORS
GAVIN NEWSOM, BIERMAN, KATZ
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, These states which modified the drug felony ban did so by excluding those
2 convicted of drug possession but not drug sales and/or by excluding those receiving or having
3 successfully completed treatment; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the state
5 legislature to modify section 115 of the federal welfare legislation which bars convicted drug felons
6 from receiving TANF and Food Stamp benefits by excluding those convicted of drug possession but
7 not drug sales and/or by excluding those receiving or having successfully completed treatment; and, be
8 it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to our state representatives.

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City and County of San Francisco

Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308
San Francisco, CA 94102-4532

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 981717

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the State Legislature to modify Section 115 of the federal welfare legislation which bars convicted drug felons from receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamp benefits.

October 19, 1998 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Medina, Teng, Yaki, Yee,
Ammiano

Absent: 1 - Newsom

File No. 981717

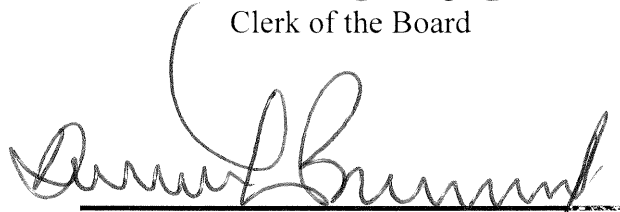
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 19, 1998 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

OCT 30 1998

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

File No. 981717 continued...