

1 [Urging the California State Legislature to Provide Supplemental CalFresh Benefits]

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3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to provide supplemental CalFresh**
4 **benefits to offset the loss of emergency CalFresh benefits.**

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6 WHEREAS, 30% of San Francisco households with children are experiencing food
7 insecurity as of 2023; and

8 WHEREAS, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, elderly people over the age of 65
9 accounted for 20% of the food insecurity in San Francisco alone; and

10 WHEREAS, The CalFresh program (known nationally as Supplemental Nutrition
11 Assistance Program (SNAP)) is critical to providing financial resources for food to thousands
12 of San Franciscans; and

13 WHEREAS, 79% of CalFresh participants often worry about not having enough food,
14 82% of participants with children sometimes or often worry about not having enough food to
15 feed their families, and 72% of participants have not financially recovered from the pandemic;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Research shows enrollment in CalFresh improves access to nutritious
18 foods, eases mental distress, and reduces labor spent accessing food; and

19 WHEREAS, In March 2020, Congress passed a law allowing the Food and Nutrition
20 Service (FNS) to provide emergency allotments to all SNAP households to assist low-income
21 people across the country during an unprecedented public health emergency; and

22 WHEREAS, The emergency allotments passed by Congress in March 2020 expired on
23 February 28, 2023; and

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1 WHEREAS, Without the help of state and federal officials, low-income residents across
2 California are set to face a food-shortage pandemic which many are describing as a “hungry
3 summer;” and

4 WHEREAS, In the state of California, more than 5 million people received emergency
5 CalFresh benefits, and roughly 100,000 of those recipients live in San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, The loss of these emergency benefits will significantly decrease the
7 standard of living for low-income Californians and will disproportionately hurt those who are
8 the most marginalized; and

9 WHEREAS, Low-income families, immigrants, single-room occupancy hotel residents,
10 and many others depend on these emergency CalFresh benefits to keep themselves and their
11 families fed and their cupboards full; and

12 WHEREAS, California’s Department of Social Services (CDSS) is directing impacted
13 CalFresh recipients to reach out to their local food banks to help fill the gap left by the benefits
14 reduction; and

15 WHEREAS, There are currently nearly 2,200 households on waitlists to enroll in one of
16 the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank Pop-Up pantries and another 400 on waitlists at
17 community partner agencies; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank is currently serving 56,000
19 unduplicated households each week (up from 32,000 households pre-pandemic), many of
20 whom use their pantry food to supplement CalFresh benefits that are already not stretching
21 far enough in our expensive city; and

22 WHEREAS, In states where the emergency allotment has already ended, data shows
23 that the percentage of SNAP recipients who needed to also turn to food pantries nearly
24 doubled from about 15% to 30% after their benefits were cut; and

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1 WHEREAS, Local businesses are set to take a major financial hit with the loss of
2 emergency CalFresh benefits; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Department of Social Services says emergency benefit
4 spending is at \$12 million a month in San Francisco, which is a \$144 million annual loss of
5 income to San Francisco's local economies; and

6 WHEREAS, In programs like SNAP where government spending towards lower income
7 households for every \$1 multiplies its values up to \$2 of economic activity; and

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors have acknowledged that "food is
9 a basic human right and essential for human health" and thus created the Food Security Task
10 Force in 2013 (Resolution No. 447-13) with the goal of ending hunger by 2020; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State Legislature to
13 act now by providing supplemental CalFresh benefits to offset the loss of emergency
14 CalFresh benefits; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
16 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member Matt
17 Haney, and Assembly Member Phil Ting, the California State Assembly and the California
18 State Senate.

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