

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 285 (Wiener) - Public Social Services]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 285, Public Social Services,**
4 **authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity and**
5 **poverty by increasing participation in the CalFresh program, and support the upcoming**
6 **expansion of CalFresh to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients for the first**
7 **time.**

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9 WHEREAS, The CalFresh Program is the first line of defense against food insecurity in
10 San Francisco County by providing supplemental benefits for eligible low-income households
11 to purchase nutritious foods at authorized retailers: including supermarkets, neighborhood
12 grocery stores, and farmers' markets; and

13 WHEREAS, Recent data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) analyzed
14 and published by California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) reflect that 103,000 adults in San
15 Francisco County experienced food insecurity in 2015-16, which represents 43 percent of
16 individuals in low-income households; and

17 WHEREAS, The 2018 San Francisco Food Security Assessment found that one in four
18 San Franciscans remain at risk of food insecurity, and as the population of San Francisco has
19 grown, the number of San Franciscans at high risk for food insecurity due to low income has
20 also increased.

21 WHEREAS, The most recent USDA analysis available estimated California's CalFresh
22 participation rate at 72 percent, ranking 45th out of 50 states, and well below the national
23 average of 85 percent; and

24 WHEREAS, The most recent analysis available from the national Food Research and
25 Action Center estimated California's CalFresh participation rate among older adults age 60 or

1 over at 19 percent, ranking last out of all states, and well below the national average of 42
2 percent; and

3 WHEREAS, Program data from San Francisco's Department of Aging and Adult
4 Services indicates that 78% of adults with disabilities seeking home delivered and congregate
5 meal services are food insecure; and

6 WHEREAS, Beginning June 1, 2019 over 800,000 recipients of Social Security Income
7 (SSI) will be eligible for CalFresh for the first time in 45 years, including over 16,500
8 households in San Francisco County; and

9 WHEREAS, The SSI CalFresh Expansion represents the largest one-time increase in
10 eligible households in the history of the CalFresh program; and

11 WHEREAS, CalFresh stimulates local economic activity and creates jobs in the food
12 agricultural, retail, and distribution sectors; a 2010 study by the USDA found that for every \$1
13 billion of added SNAP funding, between 8,900 and 17,000 jobs were created; and

14 WHEREAS, The estimated annual increase in economic activity if CalFresh reached
15 100 percent of eligible households in San Francisco County is \$76.3 million; and

16 WHEREAS, The state is currently undergoing a consolidation of the three separate
17 social services caseload management and eligibility determination systems, which represents
18 a significant opportunity to design state systems to best serve the needs of low-income
19 applicants and participants through a user-centered design approach; and

20 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors have
21 acknowledged that "food is a basic human right and essential for human health" and thus
22 created the Food Security Task Force in 2013 (Resolution 447-13) with the goal of ending
23 hunger by 2020; and

24 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 285 would set statewide goals for
25 CalFresh participation, beginning with enrolling 75 percent of SSI recipients made newly

1 eligible for CalFresh June 1, 2019 by January 1, 2021, and increasing to 85 percent by July 1,
2 2022 and 95 percent by July 1, 2024; and a) implement a state-county accountability
3 partnership to monitor progress toward participation goals and provide technical assistance to
4 counties not meeting goals to foster continuous quality improvement of CalFresh program
5 administration, b) improve access across the enrollment process from start to finish and
6 integrate program enrollment within a user-centered portal for safety net programs, and c)
7 improve access for specific, underserved populations by making targeted improvements for
8 seniors through a simplified application and ensuring accurate translations of all CalFresh
9 forms, now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports California State
11 Senate Bill No. 285 and urges the Assembly and Senate to pass the bill; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
13 Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and the California
14 State Senate.

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