

1 [Urging Congress to Enact the Automatic Boost to Communities Act]

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3 **Resolution commending United States Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Pramila**
4 **Jayapal for introducing the Automatic Boost to Communities (ABC) Act to provide a**
5 **\$2,000 payment to every person in America as immediate critical relief during the**
6 **COVID-19 crisis, followed by \$1,000 recurring monthly payments for one year after the**
7 **end of the crisis to help our country and families recover; and calling on House**
8 **Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congress to support and pass the ABC Act.**

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10 WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) first appeared in December 2019 and has
11 spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared
12 the outbreak a global pandemic; and

13 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, San Francisco Mayor London Breed declared a
14 state of emergency to ramp up the city's efforts to prepare for and respond to local cases of
15 coronavirus; and

16 WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of
17 emergency to help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19; and

18 WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, United States President Donald Trump declared a
19 national state of emergency concerning the novel coronavirus outbreak; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco and California are responding in strong and definitive ways
21 to slow the spread and save lives, with the San Francisco Health Officer issuing order C19-07,
22 ordering residents to shelter-in-place and cease non-essential activities as of March 17, 2020,
23 and California Governor Gavin Newsom following on March 19, 2020, to issue Executive
24 Order N-33-20 ordering residents to remain in their homes except for essential activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, In order to comply with shelter-in-place orders for public health, many
2 businesses have shut their doors, temporarily or permanently, and laid off or terminated
3 thousands of employees; and

4 WHEREAS, As of mid-April, nearly 20 percent of the California workforce had filed
5 unemployment claims; nationally, more than 30 million people have filed for benefits; and
6 across the Bay Area, there were more than 74,000 planned layoffs and furloughs in April, five
7 times what the area had suffered in March; and

8 WHEREAS, Locally, the Golden Gate Restaurant Association projects that as many as
9 half of all San Francisco restaurants may shut their doors for good, and there are estimates
10 that 80 percent of hospitality workers will lose their jobs, along with thousands more in
11 entertainment, travel, retail, and service; and

12 WHEREAS, These levels of unemployment are at historical highs, and economists
13 have stated that despite the historic number of claims, they understate the extent of the
14 economic crisis; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Congress passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
16 Economic Security (CARES) Act at the end of March, which includes a package of relief and
17 stimulus programs including \$500 billion for large corporations and one-time \$1,200 checks to
18 individuals; and

19 WHEREAS, Those workers who are eligible for California unemployment insurance are
20 still getting only a fraction of what they would otherwise earn, and the additional Pandemic
21 Unemployment Compensation provided through the CARES Act is a short-term augmentation;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Some self-employed workers and independent contractors are now
24 eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided through the CARES Act, but those
25 payments are capped at \$167 per week; and

1 WHEREAS, Neither of the unemployment benefit programs established through
2 CARES are adequate to cover the extent and likely duration of loss of income; and

3 WHEREAS, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 12% of the population of the
4 United States or close to 45 million people were living in poverty and for those who are
5 employed, nearly 7% or about 7 million people were living in poverty; that is, people were
6 working but did not have the resources to cover even the most basic necessities- food,
7 housing, education and childcare; and

8 WHEREAS, According to United States Census Bureau data, 10.1% of San
9 Franciscans live at or below the federal poverty rate, which is \$12,760 for an individual and
10 \$26,200 for a family of four and which rate does not vary geographically nor take into account
11 the cost of housing in San Francisco where the average monthly rent for an apartment is
12 \$3700, the highest in the country; and

13 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had devastating economic impacts that are being felt most
14 acutely by the poor and the working poor and millions who live paycheck to paycheck will be
15 unable to survive for the extended duration of social distancing that are likely to be necessary
16 to avoid the worst public health effects of coronavirus; and

17 WHEREAS, Even before COVID-19, tens of thousands of San Franciscans were
18 experiencing hunger and food insecurity; and

19 WHEREAS, In December 2018, San Francisco’s Food Security Task Force issued a
20 200-page report which revealed that, although San Francisco had increased spending on
21 nutrition programs by \$48 million from 2013 to 2018, the extra meals and groceries were still
22 not enough to meet the needs of the estimated 227,000 San Franciscans who were at high
23 risk of food insecurity; and

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1 WHEREAS, As a result of COVID 19 and the economic disruption, hunger and food
2 insecurity in the Bay Area and California has worsened and food banks are being
3 overwhelmed by people who are unable to eat or to feed their families; and

4 WHEREAS, This crisis and its economic aftermath demand unprecedented action by
5 all levels of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The CARES Act one-time stimulus checks were insufficient to address the
7 scale of this crisis for individuals and families and left out millions of people, mostly the poor
8 and immigrant families; and

9 WHEREAS, Without providing the entire country with immediate financial assistance,
10 there will be a risk of worsening the health and economic crisis related to COVID-19 and, the
11 better we provide assistance to all people now, the quicker we'll return to work and get our
12 economy and communities thriving; and

13 WHEREAS, On April 16, 2020, Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib (MI-13) and Pramila
14 Jayapal (WA-7) introduced the Automatic BOOST to Communities (ABC) Act, legislation to
15 provide a \$2,000 payment by issuing BOOST debit cards to every person in America as
16 immediate critical relief during the COVID-19 crisis, followed by \$1,000 recurring monthly
17 payments for one year after the end of the crisis to help our country and families recover; and

18 WHEREAS, The ABC Act would be funded directly from the Treasury with no additional
19 debt issued by minting two \$1 trillion coins, and additional coins as necessary; and

20 WHEREAS, The ABC Act would also uplift unbanked and underbanked communities
21 by creating a buffer for people who have seen their costs of living rise for decades as their
22 wages have stagnated; and

23 WHEREAS, Unlike a payroll tax cut, which would do little to benefit our most vulnerable
24 workers, the ABC Act would put real money in the pockets of people across the country; and

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1 WHEREAS, Under the ABC Act, “Every person” includes dependents; and these
2 payments would be available to non-citizens, including undocumented people, permanent
3 residents, and temporary visitors whose stay exceeds three months; individuals who do not
4 have a bank account, social security number, or permanent address; people living in
5 unincorporated territories or protectorates and Americans living abroad; and

6 WHEREAS, According to polling released by Data for Progress and the Justice
7 Collaborative Institute, there is strong bipartisan support among people in the country for
8 payments on a recurring basis, with 66% of the public preferring recurring payments of \$2,000
9 until a year after the President declares an end to the federal state of emergency; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the ABC Act, and commends
12 Representative Tlaib and Representative Jayapal for sponsoring this essential legislation;
13 and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
15 Francisco calls on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to add herself as a co-sponsor of the Act;
16 and for Speaker Pelosi, Representative Jackie Speier and Senators Dianne Feinstein and
17 Kamala Harris to support and assist in passing the Act; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges formal local advocacy
19 efforts through the City Lobbyist to pass the Act; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
21 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this Resolution to Representative Nancy
22 Pelosi, Representative Jackie Speier, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Kamala Harris.

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