

1 [Supporting California Assembly Bill No. 257 (Gonzalez) - Fast Food Accountability and
Standards (FAST) Recovery Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 257, authored by Assembly**
4 **Member Lorena Gonzalez of District 80, to enact the Fast Food Accountability and**
5 **Standards (FAST) Recovery Act, legislation that would empower and protect**
6 **California’s half-a-million fast food workers.**

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8 WHEREAS, Historically, fast food industry workers have been subject to low wages
9 and unsafe workplace conditions, and a 2020 report by the U.S. Government Accountability
10 Office found that millions of full-time workers rely on federal health care and food assistance
11 programs as a result of earning low wages, including a high concentration of fast food
12 workers; and

13 WHEREAS, A March 2021 report from researchers at UCLA and UC Berkeley found
14 that in California, two-thirds of fast-food workers are enrolled in a major safety net program, at
15 an average statewide annual cost to taxpayers of \$4 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, Even before the pandemic, fast food workers faced overlapping
17 challenges, putting them on the razor’s edge of economic calamity, including low wages, lack
18 of worker voice on the job, workplace violence, harassment, and wage theft; and

19 WHEREAS, In an industry where workers operate in environments that are fast-paced,
20 crowded and frequently in physical contact with customers, fast food workers have been
21 particularly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19; and

22 WHEREAS, Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found that
23 line cooks had a 60% increase in mortality associated with the pandemic and that Latinx food
24 service workers saw a 39% increase in mortality; and

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1 WHEREAS, Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous local, state and
2 federal laws and regulations have been instituted to require operational changes on the part of
3 businesses to protect employees from infection; and

4 WHEREAS, Numerous complaints filed by fast food workers with local health
5 departments illustrate fast food operators routinely have flouted protections, including, but not
6 limited to, requiring workers to work without access to personal protective equipment, denying
7 workers sick pay, failing to inform workers of exposure to COVID-19, actively hiding COVID-
8 19 cases, and demanding that workers come to work when they are sick; and

9 WHEREAS, Fast food workers are the largest and fastest growing group of low-wage
10 workers in the state yet lack industry-specific protections; and

11 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. (AB) 257, the FAST Recovery Act will ensure workers
12 and employers work together with state agencies to raise overall standards and protections in
13 the fast food industry; and

14 WHEREAS, AB 257 would establish a statewide Fast Food Sector Council, which will
15 include state agencies, employer and worker representatives, that will be tasked with
16 periodically reviewing and creating minimum health, safety and employment standards in the
17 fast food restaurant industry; and

18 WHEREAS, AB 257 would hold fast food franchisors responsible for ensuring
19 franchisees comply with health, safety and employment standards; and

20 WHEREAS, The law established by AB 257 would help to address widening income
21 inequality that has allowed a small number of executives to profit immensely while subjecting
22 workers to poverty wages and unsustainable working conditions; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with workers,
24 community groups, and labor unions in strong support of Assembly Bill No. 257; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That California can emerge from COVID-19 stronger than
2 ever before, but only if essential workers have the opportunity to succeed by giving Black,
3 brown, Asian and immigrant workers more power and a voice on the job; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit copies of this
5 Resolution to the California State Assembly and California State Senate majority and minority
6 leaders, the San Francisco delegation to the state legislature, and members of the Assembly
7 Labor and Employment Committee.

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