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## Resolution to Support Continuing the Federal Funding for Jobs Now and the Community Jobs Program and Defend the CalWORKS Program Against State Budget Cuts

Whereas, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed in February 2009 provided \$5 billion to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund some of which could be used for subsidized employment; and

Whereas, states are using the TANF Emergency Fund to create jobs, stimulate the economy, and reduce hardship. The California welfare program, CalWORKs, was allocated \$1.8 billion; and

Whereas, these states have plans in place to provide subsidized jobs to almost 120,000 individuals by the end of September; and

Whereas, the states receiving TANF Emergency Funds for increased basic assistance costs served almost 165,000 more families in their TANF programs in August 2009 than in December 2007; and

Whereas, these families spend quickly any funds they receive, so this assistance helps sustain local merchants and, through them, neighborhood economies; and

Whereas, nearly 15,000 jobs have been created in California. In San Francisco, more than 2,100 jobs have been created in the Jobs Now and Community Jobs Program. The mayor has increased the goal to 2,500 jobs; and

Whereas, the TANF Emergency Fund ends on September 30. If Congress does not extend the date, the money that is left unspent is returned to the U.S. Treasury; and

Whereas, in anticipation of the fund's scheduled expiration on September 30, various states and counties are planning to start dismantling their TANF subsidized jobs programs and to cut cash assistance for impoverished families and about 70,000 jobs will be lost; and

Whereas, when states act this spring to adopt budgets for the next fiscal year, many are likely to institute cuts in TANF cash assistance in anticipation of the expiration of the TANF Emergency Fund; and

Whereas, the cuts will lead to virtually a dollar-for-dollar reduction in household consumption, and thus to a further loss of economic activity and jobs, while pushing already-poor families deeper into poverty; and

Whereas, most of these states would not make such decisions if they knew Congress would extend the fund; and

Whereas, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has threatened to cut CalWORKs out of the state budget; and

Whereas, President Obama's budget calls for the extension of the TANF Emergency Fund to Sept. 30, 2011, and includes a \$2.5 billion enhancement of the \$5 billion program; and

Whereas, on March 9, the Republicans challenged an amendment to extend the TANF Emergency Fund on a procedural point of budget rules, which needed 60 votes to override. The Democrats only have 59 votes. Four Democrats switched their votes when they saw the amendments failing so the final vote was 55 to 45; and

Whereas, key swing votes would be those Republican Senators who defied their party to support the \$15 billion job stimulus bill passed in February. They are as follows: Republicans - Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Senator Kit Bond of Missouri, Senator George Voinovich of Ohio. Other key votes are those Senators who switched their votes. They are as follows: Democrats - Senator McCaskill of Missouri; Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska; Senator Warner of Virginia and Senator Webb of Virginia. We need to get in touch with organizations and members of national organizations in those states to put pressure on those Senators; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is currently considering a jobs bill introduced by Congressional Representative George Miller, D-California, and the House needs to pass an extension of the TANF Emergency fund as an amendment,

Therefore be it Resolved the San Francisco Labor Council goes on record supporting the extension of the TANF Emergency Fund; and

Be it Further Resolved the San Francisco Labor Council sends a letter to the AFL-CIO urging it to request that all jobs coalitions in which it is a member, such as the Jobs for America Now Coalition, send out an urgent action alert asking members to call their Senators and Congressional Representatives to support legislation extending the TANF Emergency Fund, and

Be it Further Resolved that affiliates of the San Francisco Labor Council will make every effort to contact their internationals, and unions in the targeted states, to urge them to contact Senators and Congressional Representatives; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council send letters to Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, urging them to fight for the extension of the TANF Emergency Fund; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council send a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger demanding that he not cut the CalWORKs program.

Submitted by Sister Alice Lindstrom, APWU, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on March 15, 2010.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson  
Executive Director