



## Educate. Empower.

### RESOLUTION TO REMOVE LIFETIME BAN FROM CALWORKS AND CALFRESH FOR PEOPLE WITH A DRUG CONVICTION – SB 283 (HANCOCK)

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WHEREAS, thousands of Californians are released from prison or jail every year on parole or probation with few options for employment; and

WHEREAS, California ranks second-worst in the nation in recidivism rates, nearly 15 percentage points higher than the national average. Approximately two-thirds of those released from prison will be rearrested – and almost one-half will be re-incarcerated—within three years of their release; and

WHEREAS, AB 109 (Statutes of 2011) realigned the responsibility for non-violent offenders to the Counties, heightening the importance of finding solutions to the state's high recidivism rate; and

WHEREAS, California maintains a law that bans people with prior drug-related convictions occurring after August 22, 1996 from the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh programs; and

WHEREAS, this lifetime ban on CalWORKs and CalFresh makes people ineligible for basic needs supports like food and money for rent, job training and work support services, like childcare and tuition expenses; and

WHEREAS, food benefits through CalFresh are funded by federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, every dollar in SNAP benefit drawn down for eligible families results in \$1.72 in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, keeping federal food dollars from low-income Californians with a prior drug-felony conviction and their families leaves millions in federal dollars in Washington, D.C., missing the opportunity to support vulnerable families as they struggle to stay in their community and prevent re-incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Certified, residential treatment and rehabilitation programs serving low-income Californians may apply for CalFresh benefits for their residents and the lifetime ban on people with prior drug-related convictions contributes to the gaps in their budgets, reducing access to substance abuse treatment for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the CalWORKs program offers adults who are eligible for the program employment training and education opportunities to support their attainment and retention of gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the CalFresh program offers and Employment & Training program in which states can draw down a 50/50 match in unlimited federal funds for programs that help SNAP recipients prepare for, find or keep employment; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime ban limits to ability of local governments to utilize CalFresh and CalWORKs employment and training program to stabilize and offer employment opportunities for Californians re-entering the community,



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Francisco Labor Council endorses Senate Bill 283 (Hancock) that removes the lifetime ban for CalFresh benefits and CalWORKs for individuals previously convicted of a drug-related felony offense, provided that they are complying with the conditions of probation or parole, or have successfully completed their probation or parole, on condition that the California Labor Federation endorses SB 283, and recommends to the California Labor Federation that it should endorse SB 283 and

BE IT FINALLY the San Francisco Labor Council will send this resolution to the California Labor Federation, South Bay, Monterey Bay, Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa and North Bay Central Labor Councils for their concurrence and action.

Submitted by David Williams, SEIU 1021, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 13, 2013.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson  
Executive Director

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