

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

January 15, 2019

Federal Government Shutdown Impact on CalFresh

The Trump Administration’s continued partial shutdown of the Federal government threatens safety net programs across the country that millions of people rely on for assistance and services. It is imperative that the White House and Congress reach a long-term, sustainable solution to preserve Federally-funded benefits and ensure that the country’s most vulnerable residents from low-income households, including seniors, people with disabilities, and children, receive these critical services uninterrupted.

One program of great concern is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a Federally-funded program that provides food stamp benefits to eligible participants. Federal funding for SNAP expired on December 21, 2018.

In California, SNAP is referred to as CalFresh and is administered through the California Department of Social Services, which is the State agency that distributes CalFresh benefits to county residents.

MOTION

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In LA County, approximately 1.1 million Angelinos, including over half a million children, rely on CalFresh for basic nutrition assistance. The program is critical in addressing food insecurity in Los Angeles County. Any disruption in CalFresh services, as well as any other Federally-funded safety net programs, will have an overwhelming negative effect on the health and wellbeing of our community.

It is uncertain at this time whether or not full funding will be available in or beyond February if the partial shutdown continues, which puts Angelinos at risk of having their CalFresh benefits reduced. The Trump Administration announced on January 8, 2019 that it will cover SNAP benefits in February, but no details of this plan have been released yet.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Office, in coordination with the County's Department of Public Social Services, to send a five-signature letter to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, House and Senate Leadership, and the LA County Congressional delegation expressing deep concern with the lapse of funding for SNAP as a result of the partial government shutdown, the potential impact it will have on LA County recipients, and the urgent need for a resolution for continued funding for Federally-funded programs such as SNAP.
- 2) Direct the Chief Executive Office, in coordination with the County's Department of Public Social Services, to send a five-signature letter to Governor Gavin Newsom and the Director of California Department of Social Services expressing concerns with the potential impact the lapse in funding for SNAP, as a result of the partial

government shutdown, will have on LA County recipients and to request support for SNAP assistance in the event that the partial government shutdown is not resolved.

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