

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:

Duly seconded by Supervisor:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS TO
SAFETY NET PROGRAMS THAT HELP PROVIDE BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT TO
CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is home to 262,406 people and is a growing and thriving county with many employment, education and recreation opportunities for children, adults, and older adults; and

WHEREAS, as with many counties, cities and towns in California and across the nation, a percentage of the population of seniors, veterans, students and families faces difficulty meeting basic needs each month, even when working full or part time, with a current estimated 12.5% U.S. poverty rate including 11.2% in Santa Cruz County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, safety net programs such as CalFresh (known as SNAP at the federal level), Medi-Cal (known as Medicaid federally), CalWORKs (TANF at the federal level), school-based nutrition programs, and other programs operated by cities, counties, and states under federal rules and regulations help to increase food, healthcare and housing security and the overall quality of life for thousands of Santa Cruz County residents each month, while also supporting the local economy through millions of dollars of expenditures at local grocers, health care providers, and other vital businesses; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Cruz County as a whole, 41,765 households received CalFresh benefits including 13,782 children, with \$6,537,620 in benefits spent in local stores in March 2025 alone. A rollback to pre-pandemic eligibility levels would result in a 34% reduction in individuals receiving food assistance benefits; and

WHEREAS, 89,576 Santa Cruz County residents (one third of all County residents) receive Medi-Cal coverage, including 27,185 children (57% of all children) and nearly 9,000 seniors age 65 and older. In March 2025, over 8,500 undocumented immigrants received Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, current Congressional proposals at the federal level, if approved, could result in substantial cuts to safety net programs, ranging from changes to eligibility and benefit levels, imposition of harsh work requirements, significant reduction in Community Eligibility Provision eligibility levels, and establishing or increasing state shares of cost for programs where today there are no state shares (such as in CalFresh/SNAP) or where federal matching funds are today an uncapped entitlement (such as in Medi-Cal/Medicaid); and

WHEREAS, the level of cuts under discussion to critical safety net programs would, if approved, almost certainly require significant state funding to maintain eligibility and benefits or otherwise result in cuts to the level of benefits received in these programs, who is eligible for the programs, and under what rules and requirements; and

WHEREAS, according to the USDA Economic Research Service, each \$1 in SNAP creates as much as \$1.80 in total economic activity as benefits are spent in grocery stores, and every \$1 billion in SNAP benefits creates 13,560 jobs across our farming, trucking, grocery, and other sectors. Proposed cuts will not only create hunger but harm our food and farming economy; and

WHEREAS, these potential cuts to safety net programs would have a broadly negative impact on the quality of life and economy in Santa Cruz County, not only those who directly receive benefits through these programs but for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and other leading national organizations representing local governments have sent a bipartisan letter to Congress expressing significant concerns with cuts to SNAP and other programs.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz hereby resolves and orders that:

1. The County opposes federal cuts to safety net programs that would result in increased state costs, lower benefit levels, and reduced eligibility for services as well as create economic harm across numerous economic sectors; and
2. The County urges its Congressional delegation members to protect the most vulnerable citizens and support economic activity by voting against legislation that would, directly or indirectly, result in cuts to safety net programs.

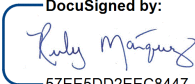
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 20____, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

DocuSigned by:

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5/1/2025

Office of the County Counsel
Ruby Marquez

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