

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 IN SUPPORT OF CONSERVING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), established in 1981, has been instrumental in providing essential energy payment assistance and weatherization services to low-income households in Santa Cruz County and across the State; and

WHEREAS, electric and gas bills are the second highest cost of living expense for Santa Cruz County residents, and without support, low-income households are often forced to choose between paying for electricity and other basic needs such as food and medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, 19% of local households receiving LIHEAP assistance avoided disconnection or had their utility services restored, demonstrating the urgent need for this safety net; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Cruz County alone, 1,121 households received LIHEAP services—including 917 seniors, 280 children under age five, and 819 individuals living with disabilities—underscoring the program's role in safeguarding our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP is the largest and most impactful energy assistance program in California and the United States, delivered through local agencies such as Central Coast Energy Services and more than 40 community-based providers statewide; and

WHEREAS, energy assistance protects public health and safety by preventing utility shutoffs, reducing the risk of illness or death from extreme heat or cold, and improving home energy efficiency for struggling families; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2025, LIHEAP was eliminated from the President's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026, threatening the health, stability, and dignity of low-income residents; and

Resolution _____

WHEREAS, eliminating or reducing LIHEAP funding would have a devastating impact on seniors, families with young children, and individuals with disabilities in both rural and urban communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz strongly supports full federal funding of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond.

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:

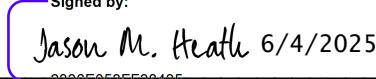
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Felipe Hernandez
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

Signed by:
 6/4/2025

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Jason M. Heath (06/03/2025, 25-1971)
Office of the County Counsel

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County Counsel

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- ii. send us an email to nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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