JAN 12 2007
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed State Budget for 2007-08 includes a major cut in the state's welfare budget for people on CalWORKS, the state's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, of a net $324 million (increasing to $426 million in 2008-09) by, among other actions, cutting off general assistance to children whose parents do not meet minimum work requirements or are in the state illegally and have been receiving such assistance for more than five years, the argument being that this must be done to meet changes in federal requirements for higher levels of work participation; and

WHEREAS, currently the program terminates the assistance given to adults in CalWORKS after five years, but their children continue to receive assistance; and

WHEREAS, this change in the welfare program will affect approximately 480,000 families in California, hitting many immigrants who are trying to reach the American dream and become productive members of our society; and

WHEREAS, this is a cruel attempt to balance the budget woes on the backs of the poor, punishing the children for the alleged shortcomings of their parents; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California has said that there are other ways to resolve this issue, such as changing the way that work participation is measured and accounted for; and

WHEREAS, this City has always stood by the less fortunate in our society and this is a time to do so again.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2007-08 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to the Governor's proposed cut in the 2007-08 State Budget of $324 million net in CalWORKS benefits, among other changes, to children of welfare parents who are not working sufficiently to meet the work requirement of the law.

Presented by: _____
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

JAN 12 2007

Seconded by: _____

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