



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA IN OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL CUTS TO OUR FOOD SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, poverty and food insecurity impact communities nationwide, including Santa Barbara County, where approximately 17% of residents live below the federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, access to nutritious food is a basic human right, and addressing food insecurity requires coordination among public agencies, nonprofits, and private partners; and

WHEREAS, federal food safety net programs—such as CalFresh (SNAP), USDA food commodities, and school-based nutrition programs—are proven tools that improve health, reduce poverty, and support family stability; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of SNAP households with children include at least one working adult, and more than 30,000 Santa Barbara County households receive over \$10.5 million in monthly CalFresh benefits, supporting families, grocers, and local farmers; and

WHEREAS, USDA food commodities, which are 100% American grown, are distributed through food banks, emergency programs, and school meals; and

WHEREAS, more than 20,000 children in the County benefit from free school breakfast and lunch programs, which are vital for health and academic success; and

WHEREAS, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County reaches one in three County residents each year through its extensive network of community partners and innovative nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, proposed federal cuts to CalFresh, USDA food allocations, and school nutrition would worsen hunger, harm U.S. agriculture, and reverse decades of progress.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the County of Santa Barbara affirms the essential role of federal food safety net programs and the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County in advancing health, dignity, and opportunity, and urges Congress to reject any proposals that reduce access to food for vulnerable communities.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 13th day of May 2025, by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Mona Nguyen
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]

Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District