

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF SAN BENITO IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA BUDGET AUGMENTATION
FOR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the health and independence of older Californians is a foundation of a thriving California; and,

WHEREAS, food-insecure seniors are at greater risk for chronic health conditions, including being 60 percent more likely to experience depression, 53 percent more likely to report a heart attack, 52 percent more likely to develop asthma and 40 percent more likely to report an experience of congestive heart failure; and,

WHEREAS, seniors represent the fastest growing age group in the country, with over 1,000 Californians turning 65 every day for the next fifteen years; and,

WHEREAS, twice as many seniors in California are living in poverty than a decade ago; and,

WHEREAS, the provision of nutritious food is perhaps the most basic component of health, especially for frail and vulnerable seniors; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Recession resulted in nutrition programs being forced to reduce services, lay off staff, establish waiting lists for service, or, in some cases, close senior meal sites completely; and,

WHEREAS, the Elder Economic Security Index (measuring the true cost of living for a senior in California) has found that *36% of all older Californians (age 65+) do not have enough income to meet their basic needs*; and,

WHEREAS, providing \$12.5 million in new funding for senior nutrition programs is estimated to save California ten times that much in reduced state payments for fewer hospitalizations, long-term care placements, emergency room use, and other medical costs; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors endorses a State of California Budget Increase of \$12.5 million to senior nutrition programs, as defined in the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act, and publicly encourages our State representatives to support such an action.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of April, 2017, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

JAIME DE LA CRUZ, Chair
San Benito County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Chase Graves
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
San Benito County Counsel's Office

By: _____

Barbara Thompson
Assistant County Counsel