

## **End Child Poverty in California 2020 Resolution**

WHEREAS, California is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest number and highest percentage of children living in poverty in the nation; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 California children live in poverty, impacting almost 2 million children; and

WHEREAS, California has approximately 450,000 children living in extreme (deep) poverty, unable to meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, California has an affordability crisis, exacerbating the impact of poverty; and

WHEREAS, California families are struggling, working multiple jobs, to try to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, poverty has a profound effect on specific circumstances, such as birth weight, infant mortality, language development, chronic illness, environmental exposure, nutrition, and injury; and

WHEREAS, Child poverty also influences genomic function and brain development by exposure to toxic stress; and

WHEREAS, California children living in poverty are disproportionately children of color; and

WHEREAS, In November 2018, the Department of Social Services issued the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Report and known as the End Child Poverty Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force was created by the California state government and a broad set of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The End Child Poverty Plan is research-based, community-informed, and achievable; and

WHEREAS, These comprehensive recommendations will eliminate deep child poverty for 450,000 California children when fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, These recommendations will also dramatically reduce overall child poverty in our state while working to break the cycles of intergenerational poverty; and

WHEREAS, Investing in nutrition, health care, and other essential needs keeps children learning, parents working, families strong, and allows all of us to contribute fully to our communities; and

WHEREAS, California recognizes the value of public investments targeted to supporting children living in deep poverty; now, therefore, be it

(Cont'd, 1 of 2)

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, that the Legislature makes a commitment to ending deep child poverty and reducing overall poverty for all families by adopting the policy actions:

- 1) **Safety Net:** Expand the Young Child Tax Credit to address the needs of families living in deep poverty; Ensure that ALL California families, based on income level, are eligible for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and the Young Child Tax Credit, inclusive of mixed-immigration-status families; and Ensure that the Child Support System does not further exacerbate poverty for children in CA.
- 2) **Early Care and Education:** Close the Child Care Gap for families living in poverty; Restructure the Early Care and Education rate structure to ensure that it is fair and equitable, inclusive of fair wages and labor practices for child care workers.
- 3) **Coordinated Services:** Fund and expand upon models similar to Promise Neighborhoods, which leverage place-based investments to improve the health, education, economic stability and well-being of children living in poverty.
- 4) **Healthcare:** Expand Medi-Cal to ALL California Families up to 138% of the poverty level, regardless of immigration status; Expand investments to establish more community-based clinics, inclusive of school-based clinics.
- 5) **Housing:** Create a Housing Loan Fund structure to expand the infrastructure of housing for ALL Californians, targeted at expanding housing to alleviate the housing challenges of poor families.
- 6) **Special Populations (Foster Care, Juvenile Justice):** Eliminate fines and fees for system-involved youth and their families.