

Resolution No. 1181-15

Council Member Kelley

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging Governor Kasich to accept the federal waiver of food stamps for as many counties and cities in Ohio as possible.

FOR PASSAGE

September 21, 2015

WHEREAS, between 2012 and 2014, 7.5% of Ohio households experienced "very low food security" up from the state's 6.4% average from 2009 to 2011, and worse than every state but Arkansas and Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Ohio ranks third in the nation, tied with Mississippi, for people in "severe food insecurity"; and

WHEREAS, when the economy is strong, the federal government places time limits on food aid for job-seekers who are not disabled, elderly or parents with custody of minor children; and

WHEREAS, the federal government allows ~~to~~ time limits on food aid when economies are struggling; and

WHEREAS, Ohio qualified for a state-wide waiver of food aid time limits but for the past two years the state government has rejected that waiver for most Ohio counties; in 2014, only 16 counties and in 2015, 17 counties – all of them rural - were allowed the waiver; and

WHEREAS, in those years, because Ohio rejected the statewide waiver, more than 70% of those who lost their food aid live in urban counties; excluding cities means that many Ohioans are subject to time limits on food aid; and

WHEREAS, people in Ohio continue to struggle under a weak economy and, although a the state government has accepted the federal waiver for some rural counties for 2016, it has rejected extending the waiver to other counties and cities that otherwise qualify; and

WHEREAS, with an 8.5% unemployment rate – more than 20% above the national average - the city of Cleveland is eligible for a waiver; and

WHEREAS, Ohio should maximize access to federal food aid by accepting the federal waiver of food stamps for as many counties and cities as possible, to help those still struggling in the economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges Governor Kasich to accept the federal waiver of food stamps for as many counties and cities in Ohio as possible.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor John Kasich and all members of the Ohio legislature.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.