RN1521798 **AP 8**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER PURCELL**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 8: SENIOR HUNGER.

EXISTING LAW, THE FEDERAL OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAM, AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, PROVIDES GRANTS TO STATE AGENCIES ON AGING TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF NUTRITION SERVICES TO SENIOR CENTERS AND TO THE HOMES OF SENIORS WHO ARE AT LEAST 60 YEARS OF AGE. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF DIETARY INADEQUACY AND SOCIAL ISOLATION AMONG OLDER PERSONS. EXISTING STATE LAW AUTHORIZES THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO MAKE AVAILABLE STATE FUNDS TO FUND SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS THAT COMPLEMENT PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONGREGATE NUTRITION SERVICES AND HOME-DELIVERED NUTRITION SERVICES.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 8: RELATING TO SENIOR HUNGER

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO “THE STATE OF SENIOR HUNGER IN AMERICA 2013: AN ANNUAL REPORT” PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2015 BY THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION TO END SENIOR HUNGER (NFESH), THE TOTAL POPULATION OF SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES ROSE BY 107 PERCENT BETWEEN 2001 AND 2013; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE NFESH ANNUAL REPORT, THE FRACTION OF SENIORS EXPERIENCING THE THREAT OF HUNGER INCREASED BY 45 PERCENT DURING THAT SAME TIME PERIOD; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE NFESH ANNUAL REPORT, THOSE SENIORS WHO ARE RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITIES, THOSE WITH LOWER INCOMES, AND THOSE WHO ARE YOUNGER (AGES 60 TO 69, INCLUSIVE) ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE THREATENED BY HUNGER; AND

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| 2011 SENIOR FOOD INSECURITY BY AGE | |
| AGE | RATE |
| 60–64 | 18.62% |
| 65–69 | 15.24% |
| 70–74 | 14.97% |
| 75–79 | 13.37% |
| 80–OLDER | 12.54% |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2013 SENIOR FOOD INSECURITY BY INCOME | |
| INCOME | RATE |
| BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL) | 49.56% |
| BETWEEN 100–200% FPL | 29.52% |
| ABOVE 200% FPL | 7.25% |
| INCOME NOT REPORTED | 10.42% |

WHEREAS, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GROWING SENIOR POPULATION IN THE STATE, ACCORDING TO THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING, THE TOTAL POPULATION OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 68 PERCENT FROM 2010 TO 2060, AND THE NUMBER OF SENIORS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER LIVING IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY AN AVERAGE OF 292 PERCENT DURING THAT SAME TIME PERIOD; AND

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AGE GROUP | 2010 POPULATION | 2060 POPULATION | % OF INCREASE |
| TOTAL POPULATION (ALL AGE GROUPS) | 2,194,933 | 3,678,439 | 68% |
| WORKING AGE (25-64 YEARS) | 1,085,492 | 1,750,307 | 61% |
| YOUNG RETIREES (65-74 YEARS) | 141,479 | 388,792 | 194% |
| MATURE RETIREES (75-84 YEARS) | 86,228 | 293,310 | 240% |
| SENIORS (85+ YEARS) | 32,776 | 178,133 | 443% |

WHEREAS, FOOD PRICES HAVE INCREASED BY 60 PERCENT; ENERGY PRICES HAVE INCREASED BY 40 PERCENT; THE COST OF RENTING A HOME OR APARTMENT HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY, AND SO HAS THE COST OF MEDICINE, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR SENIORS WHO SUPPORT THEMSELVES ON FIXED INCOMES TO AFFORD HOME-COOKED MEALS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY SENIORS, IN LIGHT OF THESE RISING PRICES AND THEIR OWN DIMINISHED MOBILITY, DEPEND ON PROGRAMS THAT FUND CONGREGATE NUTRITION SERVICES OR HOME-DELIVERED NUTRITION SERVICES, WITHOUT WHICH THESE SENIORS WOULD BE MALNOURISHED. THE NUMBER OF MALNOURISHED SENIORS IS GROWING; AND

WHEREAS, FUNDING CUTS HAVE FORCED HOME-BOUND SENIORS AND THOSE AT SENIOR CENTERS TO BE PUT ON WAITING LISTS FOR THESE NUTRITION SERVICES. THE FUNDING CUTS ARE FORCING FRAIL AND ISOLATED SENIORS OUT OF THE PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS, SENIORS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BUY FOOD AND CARRY IT HOME, OR WHO DO NOT HAVE MONEY FOR TRANSPORTATION COSTS, OFTEN DEPEND UPON NEIGHBORS OR FAMILY MEMBERS TO GET THEIR FOOD. ALTHOUGH THEY TRY TO HELP, SOMETIMES FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS BUY FOOD THAT DOES NOT FIT THE SENIOR’S DIET; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO DR. OZ, SENIORS NEED A BALANCED DIET OF PROTEIN, FIBER, CARBOHYDRATES, AND FAT. SENIORS ACTUALLY NEED 15 TO 20 MORE GRAMS OF PROTEIN THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON. A SENIOR’S DIET SHOULD BE LOW IN SODIUM, CARBOHYDRATES, AND FAT; AND

WHEREAS, POOR NUTRITION CAN LEAD TO A RANGE OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING DEPRESSION AND VARIOUS PHYSICAL AILMENTS, THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENCE OF WHICH CAN, IN TURN, CREATE AN INCREASED NEED FOR NURSING HOME AND HOSPITAL CARE; AND

WHEREAS, SENIORS NEED TO CONTINUE TO BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAMS THAT DELIVER CRITICAL NUTRITION SERVICES TO CONGREGATE MEAL LOCATIONS FOR SENIORS, INCLUDING SENIOR CENTERS, CHURCHES, OR SCHOOLS, OR DIRECTLY TO THE RESIDENCES OF THESE SENIORS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONGREGATE NUTRITION SERVICES AND HOME-DELIVERED NUTRITION SERVICES; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.