

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, existing state law provides for a child welfare system implemented at the county level to protect abused and neglected children by providing 24-hour supervised living arrangements and case management services; and

WHEREAS, youth in or exiting the foster care system face significant challenges and are provided assistance including educational assistance, career assistance, mentoring, and health care assistance; and

WHEREAS, despite the assistance available, youth exiting the foster care system can face a number of challenging circumstances that can have life-impacting effects on employment, education, healthcare, and housing outcomes for youth; and

WHEREAS, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in 2020, there was a 19 percent increase in homelessness among unaccompanied minors and "Transition Age Youth" (TAY), or individuals between 18-24 years old and unaccompanied minors; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the California State Senate is SB 739 (Cortese) which would establish the California Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth pilot program to provide \$1,000 a month to California residents who are 21 years of age and have exited the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, the bill would create a 3-year pilot program to provide unconditional monthly payments of \$1,000 to TAY and would direct the State Department of Social Services to administer and report on the program upon the conclusion of the pilot; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted to analyze the first year of the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program, a pilot program to provide 125 low-income Stockton residents \$500 per month for 2 years, found that individuals that received payments had improved outcomes to their financial, physical, and emotional wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as of January 2021, there were 18,865 children in out-of-home placements in Los Angeles County with an overrepresentation of black and brown youth; and

WHEREAS, targeting a universal basic income program to a uniquely vulnerable population such as children exiting the foster care system would provide protection to a population that is often overlooked and underserved; and

WHEREAS, SB 739 could represent a first step in addressing the dire obstacles faced by youth exiting the foster care system and shield them from financial hardship, homelessness, and further distress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 739 (Cortese) which would establish the California Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth pilot program to provide \$1,000 a month to California residents who are 21 years of age and have exited the foster care system.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

MAR 16 2021

SECONDED BY: Monica Rodriguez