[Supporting California Assembly Bill No. 257 (Gonzalez) - Fast Food Accountability and Standards (FAST) Recovery Act]

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 257, authored by Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez of District 80, to enact the Fast Food Accountability and Standards (FAST) Recovery Act, legislation that would empower and protect California’s half-a-million fast food workers.

WHEREAS, Historically, fast food industry workers have been subject to low wages and unsafe workplace conditions, and a 2020 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that millions of full-time workers rely on federal health care and food assistance programs as a result of earning low wages, including a high concentration of fast food workers; and

WHEREAS, A March 2021 report from researchers at UCLA and UC Berkeley found that in California, two-thirds of fast-food workers are enrolled in a major safety net program, at an average statewide annual cost to taxpayers of $4 billion; and

WHEREAS, Even before the pandemic, fast food workers faced overlapping challenges, putting them on the razor’s edge of economic calamity, including low wages, lack of worker voice on the job, workplace violence, harassment, and wage theft; and

WHEREAS, In an industry where workers operate in environments that are fast-paced, crowded and frequently in physical contact with customers, fast food workers have been particularly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found that line cooks had a 60% increase in mortality associated with the pandemic and that Latinx food service workers saw a 39% increase in mortality; and
WHEREAS, Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous local, state and federal laws and regulations have been instituted to require operational changes on the part of businesses to protect employees from infection; and

WHEREAS, Numerous complaints filed by fast food workers with local health departments illustrate fast food operators routinely have flouted protections, including, but not limited to, requiring workers to work without access to personal protective equipment, denying workers sick pay, failing to inform workers of exposure to COVID-19, actively hiding COVID-19 cases, and demanding that workers come to work when they are sick; and

WHEREAS, Fast food workers are the largest and fastest growing group of low-wage workers in the state yet lack industry-specific protections; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. (AB) 257, the FAST Recovery Act will ensure workers and employers work together with state agencies to raise overall standards and protections in the fast food industry; and

WHEREAS, AB 257 would establish a statewide Fast Food Sector Council, which will include state agencies, employer and worker representatives, that will be tasked with periodically reviewing and creating minimum health, safety and employment standards in the fast food restaurant industry; and

WHEREAS, AB 257 would hold fast food franchisors responsible for ensuring franchisees comply with health, safety and employment standards; and

WHEREAS, The law established by AB 257 would help to address widening income inequality that has allowed a small number of executives to profit immensely while subjecting workers to poverty wages and unsustainable working conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with workers, community groups, and labor unions in strong support of Assembly Bill No. 257; and, be it

Supervisors Mar; Walton, Chan, Ronen, Preston, Haney, Safai, Mandelman, Melgar

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FURTHER RESOLVED, That California can emerge from COVID-19 stronger than ever before, but only if essential workers have the opportunity to succeed by giving Black, brown, Asian and immigrant workers more power and a voice on the job; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit copies of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and California State Senate majority and minority leaders, the San Francisco delegation to the state legislature, and members of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.
Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 257, authored by Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez of District 80, to enact the Fast Food Accountability and Standards (FAST) Recovery Act, legislation that would empower and protect California’s half-a-million fast food workers.

April 20, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/20/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board