

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 27, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Member Brown

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

August 5, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 29—Relative to senior nutrition services and programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 29, as amended, Brown. Senior nutrition services and programs: funding.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and President of the United States to restore federal funding cuts, due to sequestration, to senior nutrition programs, and to declare senior nutrition services and programs exempt from further budget cuts.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States federal budget reductions, known
2 as sequestration began on March 1, 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States Congress adopted, and
4 President Obama signed, the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L.
5 112-25, hereafter the act), as an intended compromise and incentive
6 to address fundamental federal budgetary policy and direction;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Section 302 of the act directed that, if a 10-year
9 deficit reduction plan was not enacted, significant amounts of
10 discretionary federal fiscal year 2013 funds would not be available
11 for spending; and

12 WHEREAS, As the act mandates, and because Congress failed
13 to pass a bill reducing the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion, that
14 amount will be automatically sequestered through across-the-board
15 federal budget cuts from mandatory and discretionary spending in
16 the years 2013 to 2021, inclusive, unless Congress takes alternate
17 action; and

18 WHEREAS, The cuts enacted by the act, initially set to begin
19 on January 1, 2013, were postponed by two months by the
20 American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240), thereby
21 amplifying the impact of spending reductions starting on March
22 1, 2013; and

23 WHEREAS, The act requires that every federal program be cut
24 equally, including programs and services authorized by the Older
25 Americans Act of 1965 and administered by the Administration
26 for Community Living which oversees food and nutrition programs,
27 elder abuse prevention, caregiver support, healthy aging, and
28 employment for low-income seniors isolated due to extreme
29 poverty and disability; and

30 WHEREAS, Nutrition programs provide important links to other
31 supportive in-home and community-based services, including
32 homemaker-home health aide services, transportation, physical
33 activity programs, home repair, home modification programs, as
34 well as nutrition screening, assessment, education, and counseling,
35 and special health assessments for diseases including hypertension
36 and diabetes; and

37 WHEREAS, Home-delivered meal programs provide vital
38 nutrition to homebound individuals, and provide volunteers and
39 paid staff delivering meals an opportunity to check on the welfare
40 of those homebound meal recipients, and to report any health or

1 other problems those volunteers and staff may notice during those
2 visits, which may decrease feelings of isolation among those
3 homebound meal recipients; and

4 WHEREAS, Congregate nutrition programs provide nutritious
5 meals, nutrition education, and nutrition risk screening, and provide
6 seniors with positive social contact with other seniors; and

7 WHEREAS, Providing meals to eligible individuals can enhance
8 their ability to remain independent and in their own homes, thus
9 preventing unnecessary, costly, and premature institutionalization;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Older Californians are far less likely, due to age
12 and disability, to obtain employment to compensate for lost
13 nutrition and other benefits, forcing their families to back-fill with
14 resources intended to support their children and placing their entire
15 family's well-being at greater risk; and

16 WHEREAS, State and federal funding reductions result in the
17 loss of equipment, deterioration of distribution systems, and erosion
18 of other innovations created by networks of community
19 organizations, local governmental agencies, and faith communities
20 upon which a vast array of food-insecure Californians rely; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the California Department of Aging,
22 the sequester cuts will result in federal funds to these
23 home-delivered, congregate nutrition, and nutrition services
24 incentive programs being reduced by approximately an aggregate
25 of \$6.6 million during federal fiscal year 2013–14, and
26 approximately an aggregate of \$5.09 million in each subsequent
27 federal fiscal year, thus depriving thousands of California seniors
28 of vital health and nutrition services; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature memorializes the Congress
31 and President of the United States to restore funding to senior
32 nutrition programs, similar to the way funding was restored for air
33 traffic control services; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Legislature memorializes the Congress and
35 President to declare senior nutrition services and programs exempt
36 from further budget cuts due to the disproportionate growth of the
37 aging population and the corresponding disproportionate impact
38 of the sequester cuts upon that population; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
40 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United

- 1 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
- 2 House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from
- 3 California in the Congress of the United States, to the Director of
- 4 the California Department of Aging, and to the author for
- 5 appropriate distribution.