

1 [Support for AB 1975: Support medically supportive food and nutrition interventions as a
2 covered Medi-Cal benefit]

3 **Motion supporting Assembly Bill 1975: Improving health outcomes and reducing**
4 **healthcare spending by transitioning medically supportive food and nutrition**
5 **interventions to permanent benefits under Medi-Cal.**

6 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 1975, introduced Assemblymember Mia Bonta
7 (California Assembly District 18), would allow doctors to prescribe medically supportive
8 food and nutrition interventions under the coverage of Medi-Cal; and

9 WHEREAS, AB 1975 aims at improving health outcomes and reducing
10 healthcare spending by transitioning medically supportive food and nutrition
11 interventions to permanent benefits under Medi-Cal; and

12 WHEREAS, “Adequate food and nutrition are fundamental in preventing and
13 treating chronic conditions, particularly among Californians of color who are
14 disproportionately affected” affirmed Assemblymember Bonta; and

15 WHEREAS, In the first 18 months of the state's CalAIM initiative, food-based
16 interventions ranked second in utilization out of 14 pilot services aimed at addressing
17 social drivers of health;

18 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has been prioritizing the implementation and
19 funding of battling food insecurity programs in San Francisco, shown in our 2023-2024
20 Budget and Policy Priorities; and

21 WHEREAS, It is essential to expand access to nutritious food as low-income
22 communities and people of color communities generally have to rely on fast food and
23 processed food which is more accessible rather than healthier nutritious options; and

1 THEREFORE BE MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports
2 Assembly Bill 1975: Support medically supportive food and nutrition interventions as a
3 covered Medi-Cal benefit.

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1 **[Support for AB 1975: Support medically supportive food and nutrition**
2 **interventions as a covered Medi-Cal benefit]**

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4 **Supplemental Information:**

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6 See attached document: [Letter of Support]

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Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
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San Francisco Youth Commission
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Room 345
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June 6th, 2024

Assemblymember Mia Bonta
1020 N. Street LOB
Suite 390
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

Re: Support medically supportive food and nutrition interventions as a covered Medi-Cal benefit

Dear Assemblymember Mia Bonta,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we are writing to express our support for your bill, AB 1975 (Bonta). AB 1975 would allow doctors to prescribe medically supportive food and nutrition interventions under the coverage of Medi-Cal.

The Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from San Francisco between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board of Supervisors takes final action.

The Youth Commission has been prioritizing the implementation and funding of battling food insecurity programs in San Francisco, shown in our 2023-2024 Budget and

Youth Commission
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Policy Priorities. Commissioners held listening sessions for what families wanted out of the Student Success Fund, a grant schools may apply for, with many responses being better food options. The Youth Commission values the right to access affordable, healthy, and nutritious foods in San Francisco. It is essential to expand access to nutritious food as low-income communities and people of color communities generally have to rely on fast food and processed food which is more accessible rather than healthier nutritious options. In our 2023-2024 Budget and Policy Priorities, we also acknowledge the relationship between food insecurity and health disparities. It is vital that everyone is able to have access to food that makes them feel their best self regardless of their socioeconomic class and background.

The Youth Commission further encourages the implementation of a work group to advise DHCS, making it not only limited to, providers, farmers, researchers, and more.

Sincerely,

Ewan Barker Plummer

2023-2024 Chair, San Francisco Youth Commission
