

## **Resolution to Support Coerced Essential Workers**

WHEREAS many non-medical employees have been deemed “essential” and have been required to choose between either working in situations that now are highly dangerous, where they are repeatedly exposed to COVID-19, or taking leave without pay or the possibility of using unemployment benefits, and moreover these employees have often not been given the tools and procedures needed to ensure both their safety and that of the general public; and

WHEREAS at least 41 supermarket employees nationwide have died and thousands tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS these employees were not informed and did not agree to work in hazardous situations when accepting employment, often at or near minimum wage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee supports these employees becoming eligible to claim unemployment while choosing to be on a temporary COVID-19-based leave of absence, and calls upon all markets to provide the highest level of safeguards for their employees and their customers, including high quality masks and gloves, access to frequent hand washing, access to hand sanitizer at all times, when used to shield cashiers, plexiglass which envelopes them on all sides, and procedures that require no essential worker to be within six feet of another individual, whether customer or another essential worker; and calls for the relevant regulatory and compliance bodies to ensure compliance through inspection, and the creation of new regulations to protect the health and safety of both these essential workers and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be sent to our county, state and congressional representatives as well as the California Democratic Party for action.

Submitted by:

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