



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
STEVE BENNETT, Chair  
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JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA  
GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

September 9, 2014

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:** Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Zaragoza to adopt a resolution establishing a commitment of the Board of Supervisors to policies that support the working poor.

**Recommendation:** Adopt the attached resolution establishing a commitment of the Board of Supervisors to policies that support the working poor.

**Discussion:**

The growing income inequality in our country is a problem for many Americans including Ventura County residents. Nationally and locally, there are increasing numbers of families among the ranks of the working poor - those who despite working full time still struggle to make ends meet.

We respectfully urge your support of this resolution that we believe will move our Board forward in the effort to minimize the income inequality.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, First District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Zaragoza".

John C. Zaragoza  
Supervisors, Fifth District

Exhibit A – Resolution

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ESTABLISHING A COMMITMENT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO  
POLICIES THAT SUPPORT THE WORKING POOR**

**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, since the last recession, many workers and families have not re-attained middle-class income levels, and the economic growth that has occurred has been characterized by increasing income inequality; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of middle-class jobs and living wage salaries are increasingly a problem for the growing population of the working poor, those who work full time and still struggle to make ends meet; and

**WHEREAS**, growing income disparity threatens all citizens' long-term wellbeing, as historically, periods of growing income inequality in America have been followed by significant financial disruptions, such as the Great Depression that followed the 1920s; and

**WHEREAS**, in the long run, growing income inequality is not sustainable and threatens our economic system which relies on a participatory democracy with an engaged citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, a sustainable economy and national government can be jeopardized by increasing economic inequality and growing socio-economic need, whereas the development of an appropriately educated, skilled, and participatory workforce is essential to national prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, Ventura County has a high cost of living, and in order for families to live above subsistence levels a family income far above the state minimum wage is necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, County government is the second largest employer in Ventura County with approximately 8,500 employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors' primary responsibility is the protection of the health, welfare, and safety of Ventura County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, it is appropriate for us to commit to the following policies:

1. Expand the efforts made with our last two salary increases to have a growing part of future salary package increases be composed of across-the-board fixed-dollar increases that allow lower income employees to benefit more from a payroll increase.
2. Advocate for increases to the minimum wage.
3. Encourage citizens to support businesses that pay employees living wages and provide appropriate work schedules.

4. Encourage our citizens to achieve the highest level of skill training possible by taking advantage of our educational institutions and organizations such as the Work Force Investment Board.

Upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,  
and duly carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted on September 9, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: MICHAEL B. POWERS  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,  
County of Ventura, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board