

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR KENDRA LARA, ARROYO, BREADON, BAKER, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, MEJIA AND FLYNN,



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT #813: FAIR RELIEF NOW FOR LOW-INCOME WORKERS

WHEREAS, The Taxpayer Energy and Economic Relief program laid out in H.5007, An Act relating to economic growth and relief for the commonwealth, is a critical step in addressing the high costs of essential goods; *and*

WHEREAS, The Taxpayer Energy & Economic Relief Fund (\$510M) offers one-time rebates of \$250 for single filers and \$500 for joint filers; *and*

WHEREAS, Eligibility for the program is based on income for 2021: between \$38k and \$100k for single filers; \$38k and \$150k for joint, leaving out Boston's most vulnerable families and the essential workers that keep our city and state running; *and*

WHEREAS, In Boston, the bottom 20% of households live on an average income of just \$14,900, below the federal poverty line for a family of two, and a ways away from the \$38,000 floor being proposed in H.5007; *and*

WHEREAS, The lowest income earners remain the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to struggle to pay for food, healthcare, housing, and gas as inflation continues to climb and gas prices stay at near-record levels; *and*

WHEREAS, This amendment removes the \$38,000 income floor from the rebate program. We can, and must, continue to support our working families that are struggling to get by with low incomes by ensuring that they receive this critical relief now; **AND NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council offers its support for Amendment #813 to H5007 Fair Relief Now for Low-Income Workers and that the Clerk of the City of Boston is hereby respectfully requested to transmit a suitably attested copy of this Resolution to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the House Committee on Ways and Means the Speaker of the House, the presenter of the proposed amendment Representative Tami L. Gouveia, and the Boston Delegation to the General Court.

Filed on: July 13, 2022