

Wilmington, Delaware
_____, 2022

#XXXX

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 341 (HB No. 341), “An Act to Amend Title 31 of the Delaware Code Relating to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Work Requirements and Maternal Health,” requires that the State exempt pregnant persons or primary caregivers of a child six months of age or younger from TANF work requirements; and

WHEREAS, TANF is a critical lifeline for low-income Delawareans who rarely qualify for paid family or medical leave. The pregnancy and postpartum periods can place added physical, emotional, and financial stress on low-income families. The time necessary for a new mother or caregiver to adjust to their new home environment, recover from childbirth, and safely resume their work duties can be longer than the TANF regulation currently allows; and

WHEREAS, the first months of a baby's life are critical in their development. Under the current TANF policy, pregnant women, new mothers and caretakers must return to work prematurely or face sanctions for being out of compliance with the work requirement, which increases the vulnerability of the entire family unit. Adverse consequences can include child and maternal health complications; a reduced likelihood that infants will be breastfed, have timely medical visits, or be vaccinated according to the recommended schedule; and interruption in the bonding process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON is in favor of HB No. 341 which requires that the State exempt pregnant persons or primary caregivers of a child six months of age or younger from TANF work requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council respectfully requests that members of the Delaware General Assembly support the passage of HB No. 341, “An Act to Amend Title 31 of the Delaware Code Relating to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Work Requirements and Maternal Health.”

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution requests that members of the Delaware General Assembly support the passage of HB No. 341, “An Act to Amend Title 31 of the Delaware Code Relating to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Work Requirements and Maternal Health.” HB No. 341 requires that the State exempt pregnant persons or primary caregivers of a child six months of age or younger from TANF work requirements.