

WHEREAS, Due to the allocation of money for the current fiscal year from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), 6,300 women and children were dropped from the program beginning February 1, 1983; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment in Maryland was 7.7 percent in November 1983, reflecting an increase over November 1982; and

WHEREAS, Emergency food distribution centers report that the number of people seeking aid has increased by 15 to 20 percent at various distribution points throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Proposed federal budget cuts will reduce funds for the National School Lunch Program by 30 percent or \$1 billion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish the Task Force on Food and Nutrition to:

~~(1)--Survey and identify the nutritional status of the citizens of Maryland, especially those at high risk for nutritional deprivation;~~

~~(2)--Determine the level and extent of the nutritional deficiencies in the high-risk population;~~

~~(3)--Examine the feasibility of establishing an ongoing nutritional monitoring system for the State of Maryland incorporating existing data banks;~~

~~(4)--Report on the effect of the current nutritional programs and feed provision services existing in the State and comment on their proliferation as well as their relationship to each other;~~

~~(5)--Report on alternative approaches to ameliorate the problems identified, and be it further~~

1. Bring together agencies and organizations that are capable of meeting the food needs of that portion of the population that is unable to obtain adequate food because of a lack of resources;

2. Utilize existing knowledge and data, including the expertise of the member organizations, to define the total food needs of this population and develop a plan which specifies how these food needs will be satisfied;

3. Identify the role each agency and organization should assume in addressing the food needs of this population and recommend an appropriate course of action for each to assume. Examine current federal, state, and local food programs to