



December 20, 2016

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

Mr. Katch Koch
Clerk of the Standing Committee on Social Policy
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A2
Via email: kkoch@ola.org

Re: Bill 6: Ministry of Community and Social Services Amendment Act (Social Assistance Research Commission), 2016

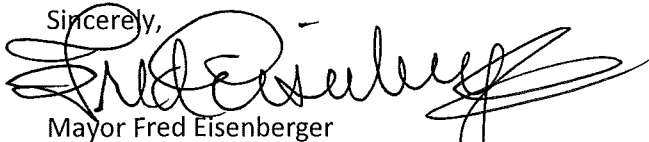
Dear Mr. Koch,

I am writing to advise that on November 23, 2016, the Eleventh Report of the City of Hamilton's Board of Health¹ was adopted by Hamilton City Council. This Report included information about the 2016 Nutritious Food Basket and the fact that Hamiltonians and Ontarians living on social assistance do not have adequate income for basic living, including nutritious food. A motion was carried by the Board of Health on November 14, 2016 to correspond with the Standing Committee on Social Policy to ask the Committee to move ahead with bill 6: Ministry of Community and Social Services Amendment Act (Social Assistance Research Commission), 2016.

Bill 6, and its predecessor bill 185, has received unanimous support in the legislature. This bill will ensure that the research is conducted on the true costs of basic living in different Ontario communities and that the results are made public. Passing this important legislation will vastly improve the quality of our decision-making. It will help us to work towards ensuring that all Ontarians have a decent minimum standard of living; and, eradicating poverty in the province.

On behalf of the City of Hamilton, I respectfully urge the Standing Committee on Social Policy to promptly move ahead with hearings on bill 6.

Sincerely,



Mayor Fred Eisenberger

cc. Hon Yasir Naqvi, Government House Leader
Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale
Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction
Hugh Tye, Director, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

¹ City of Hamilton. Board of Health Report 16-011 As Amended by Council, November 23, 2016. Accessed December 2, 2016. <https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/november142016bohreport.pdf>