

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 26, 2015

MAP 21 REAUTHORIZATION

Earlier this week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bipartisan six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, S. 1647, the *Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act (DRIVE Act)*. The legislation would authorize \$278 billion for highway programs, a slight increase of about \$16 billion above baseline (inflation-adjusted) spending levels. While the committee did add local on-system bridges to the off-system bridge set-aside authorized by MAP-21, the total pot of the set-aside would only be increased slightly from the current 15% of each State's Bridge Program apportionment. The Environment and Public Works Committee only has jurisdiction over highway programs, and additional action by the Banking, Commerce, and Finance Committees is necessary before the bill can be voted on by the full Senate. The latter is particularly crucial, as it must develop a mechanism for long-term funding for transportation infrastructure.

In the House, we are continuing to lobby in support of local bridge funding in coordination with CSAC. In late April, 34 members of the California House Delegation, including Congresswoman Capps, wrote to leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to urge them to include funding for both off-system and on-system bridges in their reauthorization bill.

PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

While President Obama has indicated that he will not sign into law any appropriations bills that adhere to the sequester-level budget caps put in place by the Budget Control Act of 2011, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees continue to draft FY 2016 spending measures using those parameters. The *FY 2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations* bill approved by the Senate committee last week would decrease funding for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program by \$15 million to \$382 million,

while slightly increasing Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grants by \$4 million to \$212 million. It would also slightly increase funding for Violence Against Women Act programs, to \$479 million. Funding for DNA and forensic-related programs would increase 19% to \$125 million; and re-entry programs authorized under the Second Chance Act would receive \$68 million, an \$18.4 million increase. The bill would provide \$41 million for drug courts; \$7 million for the Mentally Ill Offenders Act; and \$5 million for veterans treatment courts. State formula grants for juvenile justice programs would be increased \$10 million to \$65.5 million, and \$75 million would be provided for competitive grants to mentor at-risk youth. While the House-passed CJS spending measure proposed an 18% increase in SCAAP to \$220 million, the Senate bill only includes \$75 million for the program. The Senate traditionally uses SCAAP as a bargaining chip for end-game negotiations with the House.

MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

We urged Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Minority Member Leahy (D-VT) to expedite full Senate consideration of Senator Franken's (D-MN) S. 993, the *Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act*, which would facilitate collaboration amongst the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems. The measure, which has strong bipartisan support, was approved by the Judiciary Committee in April and is currently pending on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. In the House, we contacted Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Chairman Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Ranking Minority Member Jackson Lee (D-TX) to advocate in support of companion legislation introduced as H.R. 1854 by Congressman Collins (R-GA), as well as Congressman Nugent's (R-731), *Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act*, which would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

(MIOTCRA), including grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders. We also asked the local Congressional delegation to support the legislation. Hearings have not yet been scheduled in the House.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

After Senate Judiciary Chairman Grassley introduced S. 1169, the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2015*, we contacted committee members to reiterate the need for adequate Federal resources to assist local government agencies such as the County in addressing juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs in the community. We also asked Senators Boxer and Feinstein to urge their colleagues on the committee to address the need for an array of services to meet the needs of children and youth in the juvenile justice system. In the House, Congressman Scott (D-VA) recently re-introduced his *Youth PROMISE Act* as H.R. 2197. The proposal would provide for evidence-based practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention. While both proposals have bipartisan support, neither the Senate nor the House Judiciary Committee has scheduled hearings on juvenile justice so far this year.

SECOND CHANCE ACT

We contacted the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to reiterate support for legislation to reauthorize the Second Chance Act. The previous authorization expired on September 30, 2010, and while Congress has continued to fund the Act's programs through the annual appropriations process, we argued the importance of reauthorizing and improving Second Chance to ensure the availability of much needed re-entry resources to local governments. While Senator Portman (R-OH) recently introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Act as S. 1513, the *Second Chance Act Reauthorization Act*, a companion bill has not yet been introduced in the House.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

As the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee began work on its FY 2016 spending measure, we continued to work with NACo and other stakeholders in support of funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The County received \$1.8 million through the program last year. When the subcommittee drafted the FY 2016 *Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill, it included \$452,000,000 to fully fund PILT.

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