

State Issues – Advocacy Letters

- **AB 154 (Atkins)** Addresses shortage of health care professionals able to provide early abortion care in California.
- **AB 711 (Rendon/Pan)** Hunting: nonlead ammunition.
- Maintaining Funding for Indigent Health Care
- Restoral Funding for CURES

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Vice Chair

JANET WOLF

Second District

DOREEN FARR

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District



AGENDA ITEM 3A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 8, 2013

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate, 19th Senate District
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916-324-7544

Re: AB 711 (Rendon/Pan) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

The County of Santa Barbara's 2013 Legislative Platform recognizes the need to maintain and protect water and soil quality as well as bio-diversity. In keeping with this principle, the County supports Assembly Bill (AB) 711. This measure will phase in non-lead ammunition over a two-year period to avoid the toxic impacts that lead bullets and shot can have on the health of animals and humans. According to the proposed legislation, the Fish and Game Commission will have six months to plan a phase-in that mitigates the impact on ammunition manufactures, retailers and hunters.

As you are likely aware, lead has significant health consequences for humans and animals. There is actually no standard for a safe level of lead exposure for humans. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service began requiring non-lead ammunition like steel and copper for hunting ducks and geese across the country in 1991. Here in California, thousands of hunters already use non-lead ammunition. With these non-lead alternatives available, there is no reason to continue using toxic lead shotgun shells and bullets.

The County supports AB 711 and asks for your support as well.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors

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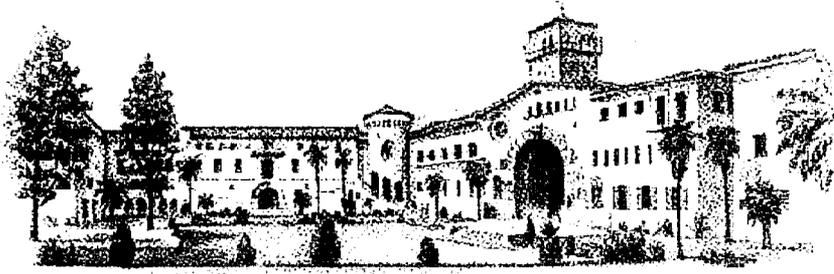
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 4, 2013

Assemblymember Das Williams
37th District
State Capitol-Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax: (916) 319-2137

Re: AB 154 (Atkins) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Williams,

The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors supports passage of AB 154 (Atkins), which will authorize a nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), and physician assistant (PA) to perform abortion by medication or aspiration techniques in the first trimester of pregnancy upon completion of training, as specified. This bill intends to address the current shortage of health care professionals able to provide early abortion care in California.

A multi-year study conducted by The University of California's San Francisco (UCSF) Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, under a state waiver, evaluated the providers contemplated by this bill in providing aspiration abortion. Over the five years of the study, almost 8,000 patients were provided care by nurse practitioners (NP), certified nurse midwives (CNM) or physician assistants (PA) and over 6,000 patients were provided care by a physician. The results of the study show comparable levels of complications and found these providers to be safe and qualified.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 52% of California counties lack an abortion provider. Lack of access causes women to delay termination into the second or even third trimesters. It also forces rural women to travel long distances, in the case of some rural areas, up to five hours, which may cause women to have to raise money to cover these travel costs. This bill helps to ensure women receive safe early care and will help provide comprehensive and coordinated reproductive health care in areas such as miscarriage management, post-abortion follow-up, and contraception.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Dennis Bozanich with our County Executive Office at (805) 568-3107 or dbozanich@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 4, 2013

Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian
35th District
State Capitol-Room 2016
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax: (916)319-2135

Re: AB 154 (Atkins) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Achadjian,

The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors supports passage of AB 154 (Atkins), which will authorize a nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), and physician assistant (PA) to perform abortion by medication or aspiration techniques in the first trimester of pregnancy upon completion of training, as specified. This bill intends to address the current shortage of health care professionals able to provide early abortion care in California.

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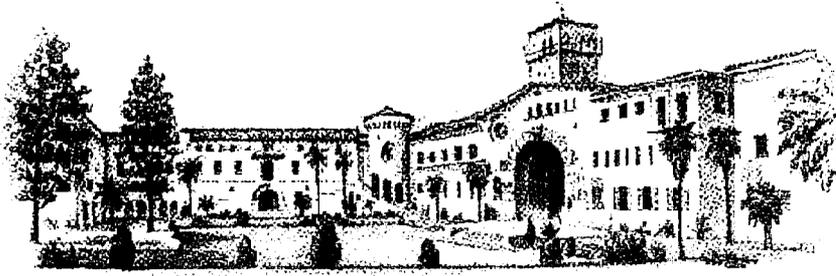
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 4, 2013

Senator Hannah Beth Jackson
19th Senate District
State Capitol-Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916)324-7544

Re: AB 154 (Atkins) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

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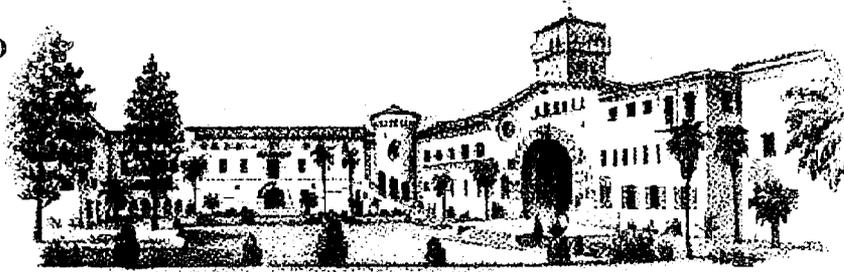
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 8, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916-558-3160

Re: *Maintaining Funding for Indigent Health Care*

Dear Governor Brown:

The County of Santa Barbara's 2013 Legislative Platform calls for maintaining and enhancing "safety net" services such as access to indigent health care. Your plan to implement the Affordable Care Act in California made in the May Revision of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 budget will cause a dramatic reduction in the access to health care for Santa Barbara County's most vulnerable residents. The County will be forced to make significant cuts to public health and health clinic operations as a result of losing millions of dollars in 1991 Realignment funding. Ironically, these cuts will have the effect of reducing access to health care services at the exact moment millions of Californians will be provided essential health benefits through the Medi-Cal coverage expansions.

The Federal government is providing the State of California billions of dollars over the next three years to allow for an orderly transition to full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. It is clear that this financial support is critical to health reforms success and acceptance. We accept the principle that indigent health care savings as a result of the Medi-Cal Expansion will be redirected to other important programs. We believe, as did the federal government, that eligibles will gradually become insured and that real savings will accrue slowly. Unfortunately, the redirection of 1991 Realignment funds proposed will cause cuts to health services before many uninsured become insured.

We have been working through the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to pursue less devastating formulas that follow your principle and will allow needed health services to continue for our residents. Having any county end up with less funding for health services and public health due to the affordable care act is certainly contrary to the intent of the ACA. Forcing counties to choose between reducing services in county health center clinics versus public health programs will devastate our system and ultimately cost more down the road due to reduced access and reductions to public health prevention. Please consider using the federal resources available to provide for an effective transition to health reform.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc:

The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson

Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors

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June 8, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916-558-3160

Re: Restoral of Funding for CURES - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The County of Santa Barbara's 2013 Legislative Platform calls for enhanced levels of funding for public safety. The *Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System* (CURES) database which was established in 2009 to monitor patients' information as to whether they are getting the same prescriptions from several different sources. Unfortunately because of the State's financial crisis, all funding for CURES has been eliminated and the database has not been updated. It has been noted that it will take \$2.8 million to retool the system.

The County requests restoral of funding for the *Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System* and asks for your support as well. Your FY 2013-14 proposed budget for Attorney General Harris's Department of Justice has increased by 4.5% but none of the money is earmarked for CURES. We believe that based on all the facts regarding Prescription Drug Abuse, it is important that the CURES database be restored and available as a tool to prevent abuse of prescription drugs.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Attorney General Kamala Harris
The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Members of the Board of Supervisors