

State Issues – Advocacy Letters

Redirection on health funding in the May Revise – (Letters to State Delegation)

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

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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

May 17, 2013

Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian
State Capitol Bldg. Rm. 2016
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax: (916)319-2135

Re: Redirection on health funding in the May Revise - OPPOSITION

Dear Assemblymember Achadjian,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Supervisors, I am writing to express opposition to the Governor's Budget Proposal in the May Revise to prematurely redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in county health care 1991 realignment funding, and to reject the proposed realignment of CalWORKs and other obligations to counties.

In alignment with Santa Barbara County's 2013 Legislative Platform, we urge you to protect health care services to the uninsured and public health services as you deliberate the state budget in the coming weeks.

We strongly support the goal of enrolling millions of uninsured Californians in Medi-Cal by January 1. We appreciate Governor Brown's continued commitment to timely implementation in California and his recognition that a state-based approach to Medi-Cal expansion is the correct course. Further, we appreciate that the Governor's May Revise acknowledged that the redistribution of funds should be based on actual savings generated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rather than an arbitrary number.

Successful implementation of federal health reform is a once in a generation opportunity to cover millions more uninsured Californians. In particular, the opportunity to expand Medi-Cal while receiving full federal funding for three years is unprecedented. This allows California some breathing room to accurately assess how many people will enroll in Medi-Cal and Covered California and exactly what level of savings counties might realize before redirecting funding away from county-based health care programs. It also gives us an opportunity to invest in strengthening local safety net programs, public health and behavioral health services that must remain in place to serve not only the remaining 3 to 4 million uninsured, but others who depend on community health programs such as trauma care, burn units, and other important local services.

The savings projected in the May Revision will not accrue immediately and the figures far exceed any anticipated savings that counties expect to achieve. Under the formula outlined in the May Revision, \$300 million in county health care funding will be redirected in 2013-14, with more than \$2.2 billion potentially redirected over the next two years. Redirecting this money now will force counties to cut critical public health and safety net services and will reduce funding available to care for the remaining uninsured.

For example, in Santa Barbara County, the planned redirection will reduce funding by approximately \$2.4 million in FY 2013-14, \$7.1 million in FY 2014-15 and by approximately \$10.2 million by FY 2016-17. Therefore, the Governor's redirection proposal would reduce 1991 Realignment funding by 22.4% in FY 13-14,

Re: Redirection on health funding in the May Revise – OPPOSITION

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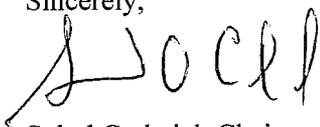
67% in FY 14-15, and 97% in FY 15-16 and thereafter. This loss of health services funding will directly impact access to services that the Affordable Care Act was planning to help.

Because the state will receive full federal funding for three years, there's no need to immediately redirect county health funds. The state should use that time to analyze actual data so we know how much counties will save, how much they will continue to spend caring for the remaining uninsured and what can be invested in strengthening the county safety net. We want to improve the health care system for all in California, not just maintain the status quo.

The May Revision also proposes a realignment of human services programs to counties that we urge legislators to reject. The Administration is intending to shift fiscal responsibility and risk for CalWORKs, including child care, and CalFresh administration to counties in 2016-17; counties would be at risk for caseload growth, future state and federal law changes and adverse court actions. Counties simply are not in a position right now to take on more programs, responsibilities and risk, especially when our health care systems are also undergoing dramatic changes.

We have been and remain dedicated partners with this administration, with the Legislature and with you. We are hopeful that as we continue working with Governor Brown and the Legislature, we can come to an agreement that is both fiscally responsible and fulfills the promise of the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 17, 2013

Senator Hannah Beth Jackson
State Capitol Bldg. Rm. 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916)324-7544

Re: Redirection on health funding in the May Revise - OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Supervisors, I am writing to express opposition to the Governor's Budget Proposal in the May Revise to prematurely redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in county health care 1991 realignment funding, and to reject the proposed realignment of CalWORKs and other obligations to counties.

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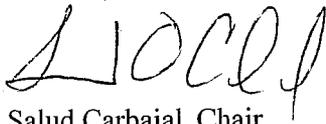
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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
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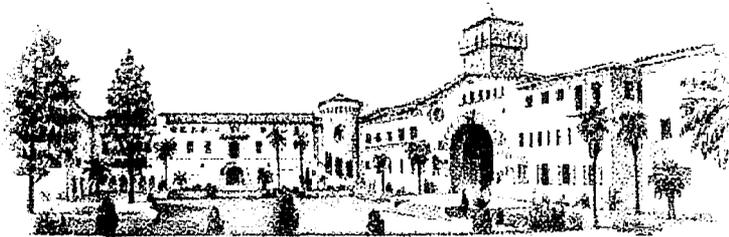
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 17, 2013

Assemblymember Das Williams
State Capitol
P. O. Box 9422849, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax: (916)319-2137

Re: Redirection on health funding in the May Revise - OPPOSITION

Dear Assemblymember Williams,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Supervisors, I am writing to express opposition to the Governor's Budget Proposal in the May Revise to prematurely redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in county health care 1991 realignment funding, and to reject the proposed realignment of CalWORKs and other obligations to counties.

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Re: Governor's Proposed Budget – May Revise
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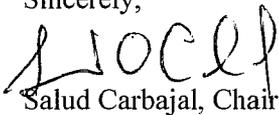
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