

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 27, 2017

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL

We contacted Congressman Carbajal to reiterate anticipation of floor debate on H.R. 1628, the *American Health Care Act*, to advocate the County's opposition to any changes in Federal law that would reduce or eliminate the County's funding for health care services. House Majority Leadership released a "Manager's Amendment" to H.R. 1628 in advance of floor action on the bill, with the intent of garnering additional Republican support through a series of amendments, including terminating Medicaid expansion eligibility for certain individuals at the end of 2017, providing States with the option of work requirements for certain Medicaid recipients, and offering States the option of a block grant in lieu of a per capita capped program. Negotiations continued as the scheduled vote neared, with concessions favored by conservative Republicans causing distress to more moderate members of the party. In the end, Republican leaders were unable to garner enough votes to pass H.R. 1628, and the bill was pulled from consideration.

BUDGET PROCESS AND OUTLOOK

On March 16, President Trump released his FY 2018 Budget Blueprint, or "skinny" budget, providing a broad outline of his proposals for the funding of all Federal agencies, and we provided relevant sections of the document to the County for review of potential impacts. The President is proposing a \$54 billion increase in defense spending and a cut of \$54 billion in nondefense programs. While impacts on specific agencies would vary widely, many programs of significance to the County would face deep cuts or elimination. Included in the latter category are programs ranging from housing assistance programs such as CDBG and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to public safety programs such as SCAAP and the Homeland Security Grant Program. While the President's in depth Budget proposal is not expected until May, the spending reductions in the budget proposal

are being widely criticized in Congress, including concerns being raised by key members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Binding decisions will not be made until Congressional deliberations begin on the FY 2018 appropriations bills later this year, and we have begun contacting the respective appropriations subcommittees and members of the local Congressional delegation to lobby in support of the County's funding priorities.

CAMP 4 LEGISLATION

Following the introduction of Congressman LaMalfa's (R-CA) H.R. 1491, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017, we contacted staff for the House Natural Resources Committee to discuss the bill. H.R. 1491 would ratify the action taken by the Secretary of the Interior to place Camp 4 into trust for the benefit of the Chumash, as well as the Secretary's action to dismiss the appeals relating to the fee-to-trust acquisition. According to committee staff, potential action on the measure has not yet been planned. However, it is important to note that Congressman LaMalfa is now the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Native American Affairs. We also contacted Senator Feinstein's staff to discuss the status of Camp 4, as well as the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. No companion legislation to H.R. 1491 has been introduced in the Senate.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

We contacted the House and Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to advocate the County's support for Federal resources to assist local government agencies such as the County to address juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs in the community. While legislation has not yet been introduced, both committees have begun holding hearings in anticipation of upcoming action on reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and juvenile justice system reform efforts. We also provided the

County with grant opportunities for competitive funding issued by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, including juvenile drug treatment courts and community supervision under the Second Chance Act.

FIREFIGHTING – DRONE INTERFERENCE

After Congressman Cook (R-CA) reintroduced his *Wildfire Airspace Protection Act* as H.R. 1138, we urged the House Judiciary Committee to schedule action on the measure. H.R. 1138 would provide a criminal penalty for launching drones that interfere with fighting wildfires affecting Federal property, including National Forest and BLM lands in the County, and we cited incidents in Southern California during which unregulated drone use has forced aerial firefighting operations over uncontrolled wild fires to be suspended. We thanked Congressman Cook for re-introducing proposal, and asked Congressman Carbajal to consider cosponsoring the legislation.

CLEAN WATER REGULATIONS

We provided County staff with President Trump's executive order directing the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA to review the "Waters of the United States" rule that expanded Federal jurisdiction over pollution in streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The action is a continuation of efforts by both the Administration and Congress to roll back what are considered to be burdensome regulations implemented by the Obama Administration. NACo has expressed multiple concerns regarding this rule's impact on county-owned and maintained roadside ditches, bridges, flood control channels, drainage conveyances and wastewater and storm-water systems.

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