February 21, 2017

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose - In Home Supportive Services Maintenance of Effort Cost Shift

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition to the Governor’s Budget Proposal that shifts $623 million in In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs to counties starting July 1 by eliminating the Coordinated Care Initiative and the county IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The County’s 2017 Legislative Principles specifically opposes actions that create an undue fiscal and operational burden on County departments and supports the maintenance of “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable in our community.

This cost shift is important to Santa Barbara County due to the following:
- The State has made changes to the IHSS program, including increasing the minimum wage, adding paid sick leave, restoring hours that were cut in 2009, and federal overtime regulations. As it stands now, all of these additional costs will be shifted to counties.
- Counties are not positioned to absorb $623 million in costs, growing to more than $1 billion in out years.
- IHSS is a mandated program – costs are dictated by federal/state rules and cannot be controlled by counties.
- The IHSS cost shift will severely erode other health and human services programs as well as impact County General Fund support for key programs such as public safety.

Due to the trigger mechanism in the Coordinated Care Initiative law, this action has already occurred and does not require any legislative approval. To avoid this massive cost shift requires new legislation or a new proposal by the Governor in his May Revision Budget.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann
Chair, Board of Supervisors
cc: Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
    Kiana Valentine, California State Association of Counties
February 21, 2017

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1: Transportation Funding

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate our support for full sustainable funding for transportation infrastructure. As stated in the Board’s adopted 2017 Legislative Platform, maintaining local roads to ensure safe and efficient movement of people, goods, and services is critical for public safety and economic development. If the backlog of existing maintenance is not addressed now, the cost to maintain it will double in the next decade. For Santa Barbara County, this means the transportation maintenance backlog will increase from $250M to $500M. An additional $12M of annual funding is needed for pavement maintenance alone to prevent roads from deteriorating further and even more is needed to implement pavement best management practices.

We urge you and the California legislature to pass a transportation funding package in 2017 to address the billions of dollars statewide in backlogged maintenance needs that have led to potholes, deteriorating roads, bridges and transit systems here in our community. The longer we wait to fix the small problems, the bigger and more expensive they become. In fact, it costs eight times more to fix a road than to maintain it.

Thankfully there are positive signs. Legislative leaders and Governor Brown have promised to pass a long-term, dedicated transportation funding package early this year. Passage of two bills, SB 1 (Beall) and AB 1 (Frazier) will generate new revenue that can boost funding for transportation fixes in Santa Barbara County. These bills also contain strong accountability requirements to reduce bureaucracy and streamline project delivery. We strongly support SB 1 and AB 1.

I am glad to note that SB 1, the first of the bills up for a vote, passed through Senate Transportation Committee on February 14.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann
Chair, Board of Supervisors
cc: Senator Jim Beall, 15th Senate District
    Assemblymember Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District
    Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
    Kiana Valentine, California State Association of Counties