

Federal Advocacy Letters

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Second District, Vice Chair

DOREEN FARR

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

May 6, 2014

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

Adequate funding for child care is critical to Santa Barbara County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency through programs such as CalWorks (California's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program). Without child care funding, those parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive or resources become unavailable. In addition, researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment, especially for children with risk factors. Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well documented for children who attended such programs. The child care industry also contributes significantly to the local economy both as a workforce, and because it enables parents to be gainfully employed.

The Senate has approved S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*. On behalf of the County, I urge you to work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite enactment of similar legislation to reauthorize CCDBG.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 6, 2014

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

Adequate funding for child care is critical to Santa Barbara County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency through programs such as CalWorks (California's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program). Without child care funding, those parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive or resources become unavailable. In addition, researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment, especially for children with risk factors. Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well documented for children who attended such programs. The child care industry also contributes significantly to the local economy both as a workforce, and because it enables parents to be gainfully employed.

The Senate has approved S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*. On behalf of the County, I urge you to work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite enactment of similar legislation to reauthorize CCDBG.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 7, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Chairman Kline and Ranking Minority Member Miller of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, expressing the County's support for legislation to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

Adequate funding for child care is critical to Santa Barbara County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency through programs such as CalWorks (California's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program). Without child care funding, those parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive or resources become unavailable. In addition, researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment, especially for children with risk factors. Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well documented for children who attended such programs. The child care industry also contributes significantly to the local economy both as a workforce, and because it enables parents to be gainfully employed.

Earlier this year the Senate approved S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Education and the Workforce Committee to expedite action on S. 1086 similar legislation to reauthorize CCDBG.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
SD-219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

The State of California has already implemented a successful program of the intercept of State income tax refunds, which has resulted in the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent criminal restitution, fines, penalty assessments and fees. Offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable, and one way to do so is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

Please work with your colleagues on the Committee to take action on legislation that would enable State and local governments such as Santa Barbara County to use Federal tax refunds as a means to recover delinquent fees and judgments.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Levin:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

The State of California has already implemented a successful program of the intercept of State income tax refunds, which has resulted in the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent criminal restitution, fines, penalty assessments and fees. Offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable, and one way to do so is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

Please work with your colleagues on the committee to take action on legislation that would enable State and local governments such as Santa Barbara County to use Federal tax refunds as a means to recover delinquent fees and judgments.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Ronald Lee Wyden, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
SD-219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

The State of California has already implemented a successful program of the intercept of State income tax refunds, which has resulted in the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent criminal restitution, fines, penalty assessments and fees. Offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable, and one way to do so is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

Please work with your colleagues on the Committee to take action on legislation that would enable State and local governments such as Santa Barbara County to use Federal tax refunds as a means to recover delinquent fees and judgments.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I have sent the attached letters to Chairman Wyden and Ranking Minority Member Hatch of the Senate Finance Committee, urging them to take action on legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

It is imperative that every possible resource be available for local governments such as the County to recover funds legally owed to them. Additionally, offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable and responsible. One way to achieve both of these goals is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

The State of California has already implemented a successful program for the intercept of State income tax refunds, which has resulted in the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent criminal restitution, fines, penalty assessments and fees. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Committee to take action on legislation that would enable the County to intercept Federal tax refunds as a means to recover delinquent fees and judgments.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Attachments

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the attached letters to Chairman Camp and Ranking Minority Member Levin of the House Ways and Means Committee, urging them to take action on legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

It is imperative that every possible resource be available for local governments such as the County to recover funds legally owed to them. Additionally, offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable and responsible. One way to achieve both of these goals is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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May 5, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the attached letters to Chairman Wyden and Ranking Minority Member Hatch of the Senate Finance Committee, urging them to take action on legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

It is imperative that every possible resource be available for local governments such as the County to recover funds legally owed to them. Additionally, offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable and responsible. One way to achieve both of these goals is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 5, 2014

The Honorable David Lee Camp, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for legislation that would allow the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County.

The State of California has already implemented a successful program of the intercept of State income tax refunds, which has resulted in the collection of millions of dollars in delinquent criminal restitution, fines, penalty assessments and fees. Offenders with outstanding restitution should be held accountable, and one way to do so is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enable States and local agencies to recover, from Federal tax refunds, any delinquent and outstanding court-ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. The funds would enable State and local governments to fund vital programs without raising taxes, such as victim compensation, DNA collection and identification programs, recidivism and prevention programs, and probationary supervision.

Please work with your colleagues on the committee to take action on legislation that would enable State and local governments such as Santa Barbara County to use Federal tax refunds as a means to recover delinquent fees and judgments.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform that include the following framework adopted by the National Association of Counties (NACo):

- Secure our borders;
- Include a strategy for coordination among federal, state, and local authorities;
- Establish a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Impose no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Include no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserve the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits and provide sustainable funding to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establish an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, and paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Improve and simplify the current legal immigration system; and,
- Provide green cards for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

Dealing with the challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers, and families across our country. In Santa Barbara County, as in many other regions, we have seen the impacts on our communities, especially in the agriculture industry that makes up a major portion of our local economy. On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes these criteria, and to help expedite action on appropriate legislation this year before the opportunity is lost.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform that include the following framework adopted by the National Association of Counties (NACo):

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2014

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform that include the following framework adopted by the National Association of Counties (NACo):

- Secure our borders;
- Include a strategy for coordination among federal, state, and local authorities;
- Establish a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform that include the following framework adopted by the National Association of Counties (NACo):

- Secure our borders;
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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who cannot afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

On behalf of the Board, I appreciate your consideration of our views as you work with your colleagues on the committee to approve legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who cannot afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

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Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

On behalf of the Board, I appreciate your consideration of our views as you work with your colleagues on the committee to approve legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who cannot afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

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- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

On behalf of the Board, I appreciate your consideration of our views as you work with your colleagues on the committee to approve legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District

JANET WOLF

Second District, Vice Chair

DOREEN FARR

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair



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 20, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who cannot afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

On behalf of the Board, I appreciate your consideration of our views as you work with your colleagues on the committee to approve legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely yours,

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County Board of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for legislation such as Senator Franken's S. 162, the *Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act*, to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what are called, "suicide by cop" incidents.

Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved S. 162, which would reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004, including providing grants for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders. Please urge Majority Leader Reid to expedite full Senate consideration of S. 162 or similar legislation to provide resources for improved mental health treatment services for mentally ill offenders. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the County Board of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for legislation such as Senator Franken's S. 162, the *Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act*, to address the issue of treatment for mentally ill offenders in local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

It is estimated that 15% of the inmates in local jails suffer from mental illness, and one out of five individuals in juvenile custody are on psychotropic drugs. In many cases jails have become a revolving door for these individuals as they are continually arrested and re-arrested for nuisance offenses such as trespassing and harassing business. The need for services that can effectively transition mentally ill prisoners out of detention facilities and into a community treatment environment has become critical in recent years, particularly in light of tragic events where individuals have provoked fatal confrontations with officers in what are called, "suicide by cop" incidents.

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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