



County of Fresno

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February 28, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblyman, 31st District
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose Dismantling the County IHSS MOE and Shifting Costs to Counties

Dear Assemblyman Dr. Arambula:

Fresno County is pleased with your appointment to Chairman of the Assembly Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services. In this role, you will have much influence over many proposals that could directly impact much of what Fresno County does for its residents.

Very specifically, we are writing this letter to ensure at the earliest opportunity that you are aware of Fresno County's opposition to the Governor's budget proposal to eliminate the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) cost sharing arrangement. Since the implementation of the MOE on July 1, 2012, the IHSS program has significantly changed due to caseload growth associated with an aging population and cost increases due to State-mandated legislation including minimum wage increases scheduled through the year 2022, paid sick leave, the restoration of hours that were reduced in 2009, and federal overtime regulations. A return to the previous cost sharing arrangement is not viable, does not mitigate the increase in costs to meet the new expectations, and would absolutely devastate Fresno County's ability to provide needed services to our shared constituencies.

The Governor's IHSS proposal would require Fresno County to allocate an additional \$25.3 million to the already \$29 million spent on this program. The \$25.3 million is only the first year's cost, as costs for the program will increase with each year given the annual increase in wages and patterns of program growth. To put things in perspective, Fresno County's growth in discretionary revenues is only around \$10 million per year. ***Fresno County simply does not have enough discretionary money to cover the first year's increase of the Governor's IHSS proposal, let alone all future years.***

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Unless a reasonable solution is found, this change in IHSS will negatively affect Fresno County's ability to maintain critical county health, mental health, and public safety programs. We request that you reject the Governor's IHSS proposal in your subcommittee until a different and more workable proposal can be re-submitted by his Administration. It is imperative that the Legislature work with counties and other stakeholders to develop a successor MOE that addresses these concerns and supports a fair solution to funding a program that is critical to county residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Pacheco".

Brian Pacheco, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Governor Jerry Brown
Senator Tom Berryhill
Senator Anthony Cannella
Senator Andy Vidak
Assemblyman Jim Patterson
Matt Cate, Executive Director, CSAC
Paul Yoder, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.
Michael Corbett, Corbett and Associates