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AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008

February 12, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

FEDERAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF THE 110TH CONGRESS (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

This letter recommends updated Federal legislative policies, which were developed in coordination with Board Offices, County departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Washington, D.C. advocates. This package, together with other positions previously adopted by your Board, will guide our Federal advocacy efforts for the second year of the 110th Congress.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the attached additions and changes to existing Board-adopted legislative positions. In general, these changes seek to secure increased Federal funding, enhance the County's ability to deliver effective services and address needs, and achieve greater flexibility over the use of Federal funds.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Washington, D.C. advocates to work with the County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these positions.

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET OUTLOOK

Last year at the start of the 110th Congress, the Democrats assumed majority control of both houses of Congress. After vetoing only one bill during his first six years in office, President Bush vetoed seven bills in 2007, including two State Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization bills. The Water Resources Development Act reauthorization bill (H.R. 1495) was the only vetoed bill overridden by Congress. Democrat legislative initiatives also were blocked by parliamentary delaying tactics ("filibusters") in the Senate. A 60-vote majority is needed to close debate on legislation on the Senate floor, which is difficult for the Democrats to secure given their slim one-vote majority. We expect the stalemate in Congress over many key issues to continue in 2008.

Much of the Congressional action of County interest in 2008 will center on Federal budget issues, especially on Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 appropriations bills, which fund discretionary programs. Similar to last year, President Bush's proposed FFY 2009 Budget will call for less funding for domestic programs than supported by Democrats. We expect overall funding for domestic discretionary programs in FFY 2009 to be roughly the same as in FFY 2008. In a competitive zero-sum budget environment, the County will continue to focus our advocacy efforts on pursuing funding for high priority programs – especially those, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and HIV/AIDS programs, through which the County receives a relatively high share of total funding.

Another priority for Federal advocacy this year will be the pursuit of legislation to block the implementation of various regulatory changes aimed at reducing Federal Medicaid funding. Most notably, we will pursue legislation to extend the current County-supported moratorium on the implementation of the interim final rule which caps Medicaid payments to government providers and the proposed rule which provides that costs associated with Graduate Medical Education are not allowable expenditures that are reimbursable by Medicaid. Under current law, this moratorium ends on May 25, 2008. If implemented, these two regulations could result in an estimated total combined loss of \$240 million a year to the County's public hospitals. The reinstatement of "pay-as-you-go" (PAYGO) rule, which requires legislation that increases entitlement spending or decreases revenues to include offsetting spending cuts or revenue increases, however, makes it more difficult to pass legislation which increases entitlement spending, including legislation to extend the moratorium on Medicaid regulations.

This year, Congress will consider several major reauthorization bills of County importance, including reauthorization of the Food Stamp Program, which would be extended under the Farm Bill, which is pending conference committee action. Other programs requiring reauthorization include McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Workforce Investment Act programs. However, in recent years, these programs have been reauthorized and funded a year at a time through annual appropriations bills. Congress also may seek to pass a multi-year reauthorization bill for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which recently was reauthorized through March 31, 2009. Finally, hearings are expected to begin on reauthorization of surface transportation programs, which will expire at the end of FFY 2009.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY'S FEDERAL AGENDA

The changes in the attachment represent requests from County departments and commissions to add or modify policy statements consistent with their operational goals and plans. These recommended policy changes will enable County departments and advocates to pursue positions on issues for which no applicable Board policy currently exists. The recommendations include new policies relating to the integration of mental health and substance abuse prevention and services, HIV/AIDS screening, treatment and prevention, nutrition education, reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, mentoring and after-school recreation activities for at-risk youth, fair housing activities, hazardous waste cleanup, and energy conservation and efficiency. All other previously adopted Federal Legislative Agenda policies and positions remain in effect; and as such, advocacy will continue on these matters. A revised comprehensive list of all Federal Legislative Agenda policy statements will be published subsequent to consideration of the changes included in the attachment.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

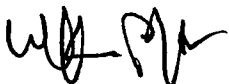
The proposed legislative policies in the Federal Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Organizational Effectiveness is achieved by providing timely advocacy on proposals that could significantly affect the County. Fiscal Responsibility results from efforts by the CEO, Washington, D.C. advocates, and County departments pursuing new funding sources and opposing cuts in program funding or new unfunded mandates on county government.

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CONCLUSION

The updated legislative policies in the attachment are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts during the second year of the 110th Congress. The policies contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board has adopted. As in the past, the Federal Legislative Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:hg

Attachment

c: County Counsel
All Department Heads

County of Los Angeles

FEDERAL AGENDA FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

I. OVERALL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Maximize Federal revenues.
2. Secure greater flexibility over the use of Federal funds.
3. Lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

II. OVERALL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.
2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.
3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.
4. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.
5. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.
6. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.
7. Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

III. COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIES IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The County's funding priorities in individual appropriations bills that the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will pursue in the 110th Congress, consistent with existing Board policies, as outlined below. Within each appropriations bill, the advocates will give priority to pursuing funding for programs which provide the County with a greater

share of total funding and greater flexibility over the use of funds. These priorities do not include health and welfare entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, for which funding levels are not determined through annual appropriations bills. Board policies on Medicaid and other entitlement programs are included in Attachment II.

1. Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

a. Reimbursement of Criminal Alien Costs: Support increased funding to reimburse the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, including increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and the Southwest Border Prosecutor Program.

b. County Justice/Law Enforcement Activities: Support increased justice and law enforcement funding for the Justice Assistance Grant and to assist County justice agencies with technology improvements, prosecutions, prevention, corrections, crime laboratory/forensic science, training, and activities addressing special populations, such as juveniles, mentally ill, and homeless persons.

c. Immigration and Naturalization Activities: Support increased funding for activities such as border enforcement, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents assigned to the County's jails, automated fingerprint identification systems to track criminal aliens, prosecution of criminal aliens and alien smugglers, naturalization assistance, and processing of naturalization and immigration applications.

2. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

a. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs: Support increased funding of Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs.

b. Public Health Funding: Support increased funding for public health activities, such as bioterrorism, early detection surveillance, immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning, violence and injury prevention programs, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

c. Other Health Funding: Support Federal reimbursement of the costs of emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants and funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and health care for the uninsured.

d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Support increased funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants, including substance abuse and mental health block grants, the Children's Mental Health Services Program, and other substance abuse, mental health, and supportive services and training grants.

e. Social Services Block Grant: Support increased funding for this block grant, which provides states with considerable flexibility over the use of funds.

f. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs: Support full funding of WIA programs, especially youth, adult, and dislocated worker programs.

g. Older Americans Act Programs: Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs, especially nutrition services and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

h. Refugee Assistance: Support increased funding to provide cash and medical assistance, employment services, and other supportive services to refugees.

i. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Support increased funding for CSBG, which provides assistance to states, localities, and community-based organizations to reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and assist low income persons.

3. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

a. Water Quality and Reliability: Support funding for the improvement of water quality and reliability, including grants for projects that would expand the use of recycled water, and for the protection of water supplies against terrorist acts.

b. Marina del Rey: Support funding for the development and implementation of long-term solutions for shoaling problems, including the safe disposal of contaminated sediment and construction of improvements in Ballona Creek and the entrance of Marina del Rey.

c. Beach Erosion/Replenishment: Support funding for developing and implementing coastal management plans, including beach stabilization and replenishment projects.

4. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

a. Highway Projects: Support funding for projects to improve, repair, and maintain highways in Los Angeles County.

b. Airport and Seaport Security: Support increased and multi-year funding to improve security at airports, seaports, and harbors in Los Angeles County, including funding for Coast Guard operations to protect coastal areas of the County.

c. Environmental Improvements: Support funding for initiatives to protect and enhance communities through projects promoting public safety and environmental improvements.

d. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and Homeless Assistance: Support increased funding for CDBG, HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantee, and homeless assistance grants, and oppose efforts to increase set asides.

e. Public and Assisted Housing: Support increased funding for the public housing and Section 8 programs, including the Section 8 Family Unification program, and Shelter Plus Care renewal projects.

5. Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill

a. Help America Vote Act (HAVA): Support full funding of HAVA grants to help state and local governments meet new election requirements established under HAVA.

6. Interior Appropriations Bill

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funding for improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains, parks, environmental restoration of coastal watersheds and wetlands, and beach projects in Los Angeles County.

b. Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program: Support increased funding for park and open space acquisition and development under the UPARR.

7. Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

a. Homeland Security Activities: Support increased funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Support funding for FEMA to reimburse all unpaid disaster claims and for earthquake preparedness, disaster mitigation, and emergency management.

c. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program: Support increased funding for SAFER, which provides financial assistance to hire firefighters.

IV. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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