



C O U N T Y A D M I N I S T R A T O R

SUSAN S. MURANISHI
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

July 13, 2009

DONNA LINTON
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE 2009 ALAMEDA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Support funding for the Department of Labor's Transitional Jobs Program; Support S 819: Autism Treatment Acceleration Act of 2009 (Durbin); Support HR 2909: Measuring America Poverty Act of 2009 (McDermott)

The following legislative items were considered by the PAL (Personnel, Administration and Legislation) Board Committee at its meeting on July 6, 2009 and are hereby recommended for your Board's approval. If approved, these items will be included as an amendment to the County's 2009 Legislative Program. See attached for details.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Support funding for the Department of Labor's Transitional Jobs Program**
- 2. Support S 819: Autism Treatment Acceleration Act of 2009 (Durbin)**
- 3. Support HR 2909: Measuring America Poverty Act of 2009 (McDermott)**

DISCUSSION:

1. The Social Services Agency is requesting support for funding for the Department of Labor's Transitional Jobs Program.

In July 2009, the Senate and House of Representatives will begin to mark up bills which include \$50 million for the Transitional Jobs Program that was proposed in President Obama's FY 2010 budget. This program would provide a bridge to unsubsidized employment for individuals with limited work experience, low levels of education and other barriers to employment.

This funding would help to expand Alameda County's ability to serve our most difficult to employ job seekers, namely; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients, disconnected youth, the homeless, those formerly incarcerated, refugees, immigrants, veterans, non-custodial parents and many other populations of people who struggle with chronic unemployment and hardships.

2. The Health Care Services Agency is requesting support for S 819.

This bill would put in place the infrastructure, services, and skills necessary to treat and respond to the increasing numbers of persons with autism by enhancing treatment services, thereby increasing the ability of persons with autism to live full, thriving, and independent lives.

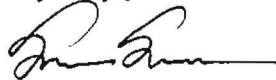
Some of the treatment services included in S 819 are: Demonstration projects providing comprehensive treatment facilities offering a full array of medical, behavioral, mental and educational services for adults with autism and their families, a multimedia autism campaign, and a requirement that insurers provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

3. The Social Services Agency is requesting support for HR 2909.

HR 2909 would update the method used to measure poverty in the United States for the first time in fifty years. The new measure is based on the current cost of food, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities. For example, the bill would take into account the differences in the cost of living across the country that the current measure ignores.

By establishing a modern poverty measurement, HR 2909 will also help guide State and local governments in how they meet the needs of their citizens. Additionally, the bill would further the development of a decent living standard which would measure the extent to which people can meet additional needs while living modestly, and the development of a medical care risk measure, which would measure the extent to which people are unable to afford needed medical care.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

Attachments

SSM:LL

V:/Leg/pal/07_21agenda

c: Affected County Agencies/Departments
CAO Analysts
State and Federal Legislative Advocates
Board Committee Clerk

PAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REQUEST FORM

- » Complete this form in order to propose a legislative advocacy position before the PAL Committee.
- » Instructions for completing this form, including due dates, are shown on the back. Work through your CAO Analyst!
- » Please be clear and brief as you complete this form. If you have questions, contact your department's CAO Analyst.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Yolanda Baldovinos
Position: Agency Director
Agency/Department: Social Services Agency
CAO Analyst: Therese Smith Rude
County Legislative Advocate: CJ Strategies

REQUESTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: The Social Services Agency (SSA) is recommending SUPPORT for the \$50 million appropriation included in the Department of Labor's budget for the Transitional Jobs Demonstration in the first-ever opportunity to secure federal funds for the Transitional Jobs Program.

BILL INFORMATION:

Bill Number: N/A
Bill Title: Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
Legislative Author: Obama Administration

Current Bill Status: In July 2009, the Senate and House of Representatives will begin to mark up bills which include \$50 million for the Transitional Jobs demonstration that was proposed in President Obama's FY 2010 budget.

Current Law/Context: N/A

Description of Bill: Transitional Jobs programs provide a bridge to unsubsidized employment for individuals with limited work experience, low levels of education and other barriers to employment, who face a particularly challenging labor market.

Potential Impacts to the County: This funding would allow Alameda County the opportunity to serve our hardest to employ job seekers, namely; TANF recipients, disconnected youth, people experiencing homelessness, people who were formerly incarcerated, refugees, immigrants, veterans, non-custodial parents and many other populations of people that struggle with chronic unemployment and hardships.

Anticipated Opposition: Unknown at this time.

Proposed Amendments: None.

PAL / BOS MEETING DATE REQUESTS:

PAL Date Requested: July 6, 2009
BOS Date Requested: Next Board meeting

EXPLANATION OF ACRONYMS:

PAL.....Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee
CAO.....County Administrator's Office
BOS.....Board of Supervisors
QIC.....County Quick Code System

**SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO THE BOARD COMMITTEE CLERK, BOS (QIC: 20101)
SEND COPIES TO: (1) Legislative Analyst, CAO, and (2) Your Department's CAO Budget Analyst (both at QIC 20102)**

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REQUESTOR INFORMATION:

Name: First Name: Alex
Last Name: Briscoe
Position: Acting Director
Agency/Department: Health Care Services Agency
CAO Analyst: Theresa Smith Rude
County Legislative Advocate: Federal

REQUESTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: Support

BILL INFORMATION:

Bill Number: S 819
Bill Title: Autism Treatment Acceleration Act of 2009
Legislative Author: Senator Richard Durbin

Current Bill Status: Read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (4/2/09).

Current Law/Context: Autism is a complex disorder that the CDC estimates affects 1 in 150 children. Autism spectrum disorders impose physical, psychological, social, and financial challenges on the children and adults who are affected, on their families and on their communities. Autism is very often a significant contributor to severe family financial difficulties, and marital and family disruption. There are no known cures for autism spectrum disorders, but there are behavioral and educational treatment approaches that can enhance quality of life and maximize independence. Intensive, sustained special education programs and behavior therapy early in life can help children acquire self-care, social, and job skills, and often improve functioning and decrease symptom severity and maladaptive behaviors. Available approaches include applied behavior analysis (ABA), developmental models, structured teaching, speech and language therapy, social skills therapy, and occupational therapy. Educational interventions have some effectiveness in children: intensive ABA treatment has demonstrated effectiveness in enhancing global functioning in preschool children and is well-established for improving intellectual performance of young children.

Twenty years ago in 1987 there were 2,778 persons with autism in the system, by the end of 2007 there were 36,952. Due to the strict eligibility requirements to enter California's developmental services system, the director of DDS estimates that California's DDS serves less than 20% of the autism and autism spectrum population in California. 85% of the autism population in the State is under 21. California will need to put in place the infrastructure, services, and skills to treat and respond to this population appropriately as their numbers continue to rise and they become adults.

Description of Bill: S 819 includes:

- A demonstration project to develop Autism Care Centers – comprehensive treatment facilities that provide a full array of medical, behavioral, mental health, educational and family care services to individuals and families in a single location;
- A demonstration project to provide an array of services to adults with autism spectrum disorders;

- A voluntary population-based autism case registry;
- A national multimedia campaign focused on needs throughout the lifespan;
- An Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee to build upon the work of the existing Interagency Coordinating Committee;
- A National Network to strengthen linkages between existing research and service initiatives;
- A national training initiative on autism; and
- A requirement that insurers provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Potential Impacts to Alameda County: S 819 would increase the treatment services available to persons with autism from childhood to adulthood, thereby increasing the ability of Alameda County residents with autism to live full, thriving, and independent lives.

Anticipated Opposition: N/A

Proposed Amendments: N/A

PAL / BOS MEETING DATE REQUESTS:

PAL Date Requested: June 29, 2009
 BOS Date Requested: next available

EXPLANATION OF ACRONYMS:

PAL.....Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee	BOS.....Board of Supervisors
CAO.....County Administrator's Office	QIC.....County Quick Code System

***SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO THE BOARD COMMITTEE CLERK, BOS (QIC: 20101)
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REQUESTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Yolanda Baldovinos
Position: Agency Director
Agency/Department: Social Services Agency
CAO Analyst: Therese Smith Rude
County Legislative Advocate: Suter, Wallauch, Corbett & Associates

REQUESTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: SUPPORT

BILL INFORMATION:

Bill Number: HR 2909
Bill Title: Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009
Legislative Author: Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
Current Bill Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means
Current Law/Context: The existing official poverty measure was created in the 1960s and does not take into consideration differences in geographic location, safety net supports, or income assistance.
Description of Bill: This bill would update the way poverty is measured in the United States for the first time in fifty years. The new measure is based on the current cost of food, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities. For example, the bill would take into account the differences in the cost of living across the country that the current measure ignores.

The Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009, H.R.2009, would largely implement recommendations developed by the National Academy of Sciences to improve and update the current poverty measure. The measure would be calculated and reported by the Census Bureau.

By establishing a modern poverty measurement, the bill also will help guide State and local governments in how they meet the needs of their citizens. Additionally, the bill would further the development of a decent living standard—in the tradition of basic needs budgets and self-sufficiency standards—to measure the extent to which people can meet additional needs while living modestly, and a medical care risk measure, which would measure the extent to which people are unable to afford needed medical care.
Potential Impacts to the County: This bill would establish an updated method for measuring what it takes to meet the basic needs of Alameda county citizens and would provide Alameda County a better assessment of the effects of certain policies and programs being used in reducing the prevalence and depth of poverty in the County.
Anticipated Opposition: Unknown at this time.

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