

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 26, 2015
1:30 P.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor*
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week, but votes are postponed today due to inclement weather in the Northeast. This will be a short work week as House Democrats are holding their party retreat beginning Wednesday, January 28, 2015. More votes could be cancelled tomorrow and Wednesday due to the expected blizzard.

Last week, President Obama delivered his State of the Union address. Most of the initiatives including many of the middle class tax initiatives will not be taken up by the Republican controlled Congress, but are seen as markers for 2016. However, one middle class tax credit that does have support from both Republicans and Democrats is the increase in the childcare tax credit.

The President's FY16 Budget will be released on Monday, February 2, 2015. Details of many of the new initiatives will be included in the President's Budget. There could be potential areas of compromise in the 114th Congress on trade, corporate tax, and infrastructure.

Older Americans Act

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Senator Lamar Alexander, Chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee introduced a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). He reintroduced bipartisan legislation from the last Congress with Ranking Member Patty Murray and Senators Richard Burr and Bernie Sanders. The legislation was last reauthorized in 2007. The goal of the Older Americans Act is to allow older adults to remain independent either in their community or in their homes.

Title III – Grants for States and Community Programs on Aging, covers supportive services such as case management, senior center services, in-home services, transportation, and information and referral. Also included under Title III are nutrition programs, such as meals-on-wheels and senior center group meals; family caregiver support; and health promotion and disease prevention services. Funds for Title III programs are distributed based on a state's proportionate share of either the age 60 or older population or, in the case of caregiver support programs, the age 70 or older population. Each state then has its own formula for allocating OAA funding to area agencies on aging, which enables the delivery of services to local areas.

This new legislation (S. 192) includes a compromise to address the Title III grants formula. The new formula would adjust the payments to states to address changes in older adult populations with a stipulation that no state would have more than a one percent (1%) reduction in Title III funding. The HELP Committee has scheduled a mark-up of the bill on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

House Border Enforcement Bill

Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, Mike McCaul, introduced the “Secure Our Borders First Act of 2015” (H.R. 399) last week. The legislation passed the Homeland Security Committee along party lines with an 18-12 vote. This legislation is the first step in House Republican plans to address U.S. immigration laws.

A border security bill passed the House last year with bipartisan support. However, this new bill is seen as divisive and House Democrats have said they will whip against the legislation. The more Conservative members of the Republican Caucus are also dissatisfied with the bill because it does not go far enough to strengthen border security.

This bill would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent all illegal crossings into the U.S. within five years, giving the agency billions of dollars for drones, fencing and other technology and equipment. The House Republican leadership pulled the bill from the House calendar earlier today citing the snowstorm, but many believe the Republican leadership was having trouble finding the votes necessary for passage.

House Human Trafficking Bills

The House is expected to pass a number of bipartisan bills to combat human trafficking later this week. Most of these bills passed the House last year with strong bipartisan support, but the Senate did not take up the bills before the end of the Congress. Some of the more high profile bills are listed below:

- i. HYPERLINK “http://www.acgov.org/board/bos_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg (Mitchell)
Repeal CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant Rule
Recommendation: Support: Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other

Recommendation from PAL Committee: Approve. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas are available via Internet at: www.acgov.org