

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

**Monday, March 30, 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

SGR—SCHIP

On Thursday, the House voted to approve legislation (HR 2) that would permanently replace Medicare's sustainable growth rate formula.

Since 2003, Congress has passed 17 short-term bills to block cuts in Medicare doctors' fees and the Boehner/Pelosi bill repeals that formula. It is likely that the Senate will take the bill into consideration after they return from recess on April 13, 2015.

Under the bill, Medicare would pay doctors based on their performance, rewarding them for higher-quality work rather than the volume of services. The Children's Health Insurance Program would be extended for two years, rather than the four years sought by Senate Democrats. Funding for community health centers would also be extended through 2017. Additionally, the package would extend the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program through 2017.

To help offset the costs, some higher-income Medicare beneficiaries would be required to pay higher premiums for coverage of doctors' services and prescription drugs. Offsets only pay for about \$70 billion of the total program. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill would add \$141 billion to federal budget deficits in the coming decade, compared with existing law.

The Senate did not have time to take up the package before they adjourned for the two-week spring break. The Senate will take up the package when it returns to Washington the week of April 13, 2015.

Budget

Both chambers approved their respective budget resolutions last week, which will lead the House and Senate to form a conference committee to try to resolve their differences over the coming weeks. The Senate passed its budget resolution on a party line vote. Senators Rand Paul and Ted Cruz were the only Republicans to vote in opposition. The House also passed its budget by a vote of 228–199 after intense negotiations between fiscal conservatives and defense hawks over increasing the budget for Department of Defense.

A joint budget agreement has not been reached since 2009. If Republicans can pass a joint conference, Republicans will trigger the procedure known as reconciliation, wherein bills could not be filibustered in the Senate and therefore would not require any Democratic support. However, any legislation that would be sent to President Obama as a result of reconciliation would be subject to a veto threat.

Important differences between the House and Senate budget resolutions may make it difficult to reconcile the two budgets. Both are keeping sequestration caps intact and call for the transformation of Medicaid into a block-grant program as well as the repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Senate version does not specifically require Medicare to become semi-privatized as the House version does, nor does it repeal the changes made to the tax code as a result of ACA implementation.

The base budget for defense spending in each resolution is \$523 billion and both chambers approved \$96 billion for a war fund for the next fiscal year, not subject to sequestration. In the Senate resolution, however, a 60-vote point of order would be required for any spending bill that increases that fund over \$58 billion.

GROW AMERICA Act 2.0

The Obama Administration released the 2015 GROW AMERICA Act to Congress. It is almost identical to the bill that was transmitted to Congress one year ago. However, the new 6-year bill provides for \$478 billion to tackle the crumbling state of the United States infrastructure. The vast majority of the changes from the Administration's previous proposal are updates of years and dollar amounts.

Attorney General Confirmation

Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, indicated that Loretta Lynch would not get a confirmation vote until mid-April, following the April recess. Senate Republican leadership has said her confirmation has been delayed due to disagreements with regard to human trafficking legislation that stalled in the Senate in mid-March.

Human Trafficking Update

Senate leadership is still trying to find a way to move forward with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. The legislation has drawn a filibuster threat from Democrats who insist on removing language that would prohibit money in the restitution fund from being spent on abortions. Democrats admitted they overlooked the language when the bill was first reintroduced.

Senators Heidi Heitkamp and Susan Collins are working together to remove the reference to the Hyde Amendment that is currently in the bill and route the legislation through the appropriations process. The move would still require the money funneled through the appropriations process subject to Hyde rules – which prohibit federal funding for abortions except in instances of rape or incest, or if the mother's life is in danger—but the direct reference in the trafficking bill would be changed.

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☐ Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- ☒ **Other: Federal legislative update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update –Platinum Advisors

Out on recess, but adopted drought legislation bills AB 91 and 92 governor signed.
Aimed at illegal marijuana grows, aimed at helping rural issues and applying for grants;
AB 91 – wide range of funds for various water conservation programs;

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education

- ☐ Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
☒ **Other: State legislative update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation Position – Action Items

- i. **(Bonta) Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center \$500, 000 State Budget Request for FY 15-16 for a pilot program to expand educational and non-violence programs in the Bay Area Community**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Keith Carson, District 5, Board of Supervisors*

[Attachment](#)

- ii. **Support the requirements proposed by the California Department of Social Services and its partners for the State's next Request for Proposal and contract for Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) services**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency*

[Attachment](#)

- iii. **[SB 66](#) (Leyva) Career Technical Education Pathways Program**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency*

- iv. **[SB 636](#) (Liu) Youth Basic Material Needs Assistance Act**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Keith Carson, District 5, Board of Supervisors*

- v. **[SB 655](#) (Mitchell) Housing Standards: Mold**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Maricela Narvaez Foster, Director, Healthy Homes Department, Community Development 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.

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