Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will vote to override President Trump’s veto on the resolution of disapproval related to the emergency declaration at the southern border. The House will also vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7) as well as a resolution opposing the President’s decision to ban openly transgender individuals from serving in the armed forces. The Senate will hold a procedural vote on a resolution on the Green New Deal and will also consider various judicial nominations. Additionally, a vote in the Senate could be held as early as Tuesday on a bill related to disaster assistance.

Senate Budget Resolution

On Thursday, the Senate Budget Committee will vote on a budget resolution for FY20. Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY) released his draft resolution on Friday and it marks the beginning of negotiations on the budget caps that are set to go into effect on October 1. Chairman Enzi’s budget would let automatic cuts to defense and non-defense spending kick in under the Budget Control Act while maintaining current levels of war funding that are not subject to the budget caps. Without a bipartisan deal on budget caps that set the top-line spending levels, Congress will not be able to complete the annual appropriations process.

Chairman Enzi’s plan differs from past Republican budgets as it covers only five years, rather than 10, and doesn’t project a balance. Instead, deficits over five years would be reduced by $538 billion. Under current law, the $716 billion defense budget cap would fall to $576 billion in FY20 and the $597 billion non-defense cap would fall to $543 billion.

House Budget Committee Chairman, John Yarmuth (D-KY), has said it is Congress’ number one priority to increase the budget caps for FY20-21. However, House Democrats are currently debating whether to produce their own budget resolution, trying to find the middle ground between moderates who want a budget that reduces the deficit and progressives who want to increase spending on the social safety net.

House Democrats Health Care Legislation

House Democrats plan to unveil their health care legislation on Tuesday, coinciding with the 9th anniversary of President Obama signing the Affordable Care Act into law. Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats plan to introduce legislation that strengthens protections for people with pre-existing conditions, reverses the Republican effort to dismantle the ACA, and lowers the overall costs of healthcare. The legislation will also include reforms aimed at lowering the costs of prescription drug prices.
The package will largely mirror a health care bill introduced last year by Democrats that would have made ACA subsidies more generous and worked to expand the eligible population.

The legislation will also incorporate new proposals aimed at creating a national reinsurance program, restoring ACA outreach funding and setting money aside to help states create their own marketplaces. Democrats will use the package as a way to target the administration’s policies and includes language re-imposing restrictions on short-term healthcare plans and rescinding new regulations expanding association health plans.

**Emergency Declaration Veto Override**

The House will vote this week on whether to override the president’s veto of H. J. Res. 46, which would terminate his national emergency relating to the border wall. The House will need a two-thirds majority for the override to pass. Earlier this month, the House voted 245-182 on the resolution, short of that threshold. Because the measure will not pass, the resolution will die in the House and not be sent to the Senate.

**Hearings & Markups**

- FY20 Budget Hearings
- The House Homeland Security Border Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing tomorrow on the Trump administration’s family separation policy.
- The House Financial Services Committee will hold a markup of the End Homelessness Act of 2019 and the SAFE Banking Act tomorrow.

**II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions**

**Budget**

The Budget Sub Committees will continue to meet this week and hear critical issues important to the County. The Sacramento Team will be present in the appropriate Budget Sub Committees to express the County’s position on issues.

**Policy Committees and County Sponsored Legislation**

*AB 944 (Quirk) CalWORKs: sponsored noncitizen: indigence exception*

AB 944 (Quirk), has been set for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee, it will be heard tomorrow, March 26, 2019. Anissa Basoco-Villarreal, from your staff will be here to testify in support of the bill. We will be there to support her on anything she may need while she is here. The Sacramento Team has met with the Assembly Human Services Committee members to ensure their support of the bill. We will provide an update on the bill after the committee hearing.

*AB 143 (Quirk-Silva) Shelter crisis: homeless shelters*

The County is now a co-sponsor of AB 143 (Quirk-Silva). This bill will allow the County to be eligible for the Emergency Shelter Housing proposal as passed in 2017. This will enable the County to get emergency housing built and available much faster than the current system. We are working on amendments to ensure that the report required in the bill will follow the HEAP reporting requirements.

**Other Legislation**

The PAL Committee has taken several positions on bills, we will ensure that the Sacramento Team will be in the appropriate policy committees to voice the County’s position, once official letters are received, on these bills and keep both you and your staff updated on the bill statuses as the legislative process continues.
Governor Newsom

Last week Governor Newsom announced during a press conference with the Big City Mayors that he will be redesigning the budget to better assist Cities with their homelessness crisis. The Sacramento Team is doing outreach with both CSAC and UCC to ensure that Counties have a coordinated effort to voice the county perspective on this important issue. UCC is working to have a stronger presence in the Capitol and this is an opportunity to do that. We have also reached out to CSAC to try to coordinate. We will continue to keep you posted on this critical issue.

Hearings

The following County priorities will be heard/discussed by the Legislature next week.

**Monday, March 25th**
- 2:30pm – Assembly Budget Sub Committee on HHS: Dept. of Health Care Services and Dept. of Public Health

**Tuesday, March 26th**
- 1:30pm – Assembly Human Services Committee: AB 944 (Quirk) – Alameda County Co-Sponsor
- 1:30pm – Assembly Budget Sub Committee on State Administration: Dept. of General Services

**Wednesday, March 27th**
- 1:30pm – Senate Health Committee: SB 10 (Beall) – Alameda County Priority, Support Letter Pending
- 2:30pm – Assembly Budget Sub Committee on HHS: Dept. of Aging

**Thursday, March 28th**
- 9:30am – Senate Budget Sub Committee on HHS: Child Support Services, HHS Agency, and Department of Social Services

Key Dates/Deadlines

- April 11, 2019 – Spring Recess begins
- April 22, 2019 – Legislature returns from Spring Recess
- May 10, 2019 – May Revise released
- May 10, 2019 – Policy committee deadline
- May 31, 2019 – House of Origin deadline
- June 15, 2019 – Budget must be passed by midnight

Request for Legislation position – Action Items

i. [SB 58](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?billId=20192020bh0058en0) (Weiner) Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale
   *Recommendation: Oppose:* Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4

ii. Budget Request for State funding increase for the Older Californians Act Programs
   *Recommendation: Support:* Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

iii. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services Training System
   *Recommendation: Support:* Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

iv. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services -Bringing Families Home
   *Recommendation: Support:* Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

v. Budget Request for State funding increase for Child Welfare Services – Extended Foster Care
   *Recommendation: Support:* Lori A. Cox, Director, Social Services Agency
Informational Items

i. Testimony - Anissa Basoco-Villarreal, Policy Director, Social Services Agency, will testify on March 26, 2019, on AB 944, a County sponsored bill

ii. Testimony - Khatera Aslami-Tamplen, Consumer & Family Relations Manager, Behavioral Health Care Services, will testify on March 27, 2019 regarding SB 10 Mental Health Specialist Certifications - pending Board approval on 3/26/19, of the SB 10 support position

iii. Regulatory Rulemaking Period Comment letter – Environmental Health’s Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency submitted formal comments, from the solid waste perspective, to CalRecycle regarding the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) regulations intended to implement 2016’s SB 1383 – methane emissions reduction targets.

These items were informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

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