I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are not in session. Congress recessed for a two-week district work period after passing the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill at the end of last week and will return the week of April 9th.

FY18 Omnibus Appropriations

As we have previously reported, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 was signed into law on February 9, 2018 and significantly increased federal spending for defense and non-defense programs. The deal increased defense and domestic spending by approximately $300 billion over two years. Domestic spending will increase by about $63 billion a year while military spending increases by about $80 billion for the next two years. These increases in domestic and defense spending allowed appropriators to increase funding for specific grant programs that the County has benefitted from.

The House passed the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill on a vote of 256-167 (Khanna, Lee, and Swalwell all opposed), funding the federal government through September 30, 2018. The bill then went to the Senate and was passed early Friday morning on a vote of 65-32 (Harris and Feinstein opposed). However, President Trump tweeted a veto threat stating that he may not support the Omnibus because the legislation did not address DACA recipients nor did it fully fund his proposed border wall. After meetings with Speaker Ryan, Defense Secretary Mattis and others senior staff, the President relented and ultimately signed the Omnibus due to the significant increases in defense spending.

Gun Reform

The bill includes the bipartisan Fix NICS legislation that ensures federal and state authorities report relevant criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The fix did not impose additional checks or restrictions on gun ownership.

Although no funding is provided, there is language included in the Omnibus that allows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. This is in response to recent calls to repeal the “Dickey Amendment” that originally passed in 1996. The Dickey Amendment mandated that "none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control."

USDA

SNAP - $74 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP, reflecting a $4.5 billion decrease below FY17 enacted levels. The total includes $3 billion for the SNAP reserve fund, equal to the President’s request, which is used to cover any unexpected participation increases.
Child Nutrition - $24.3 billion in required mandatory spending, a $1.5 billion increase above the FY17 enacted levels.

DOJ Grants

Many grant programs saw increases to include, Byrne JAG, Byrne Innovation, COPS Hiring, VAWA grants, Juvenile Justice Grants, SCAAP, and Second Chance Act/Reentry grants.

Immigration Enforcement

Overall funding levels were increased for immigration enforcement activities, across several offices within DHS, but Democrats were able to secure some restrictions on these activities, including limits on the hiring of more ICE agents and the number of undocumented immigrants that the Department can detain. Specifically, ICE can have no more than 40,354 persons in detention as of September 30, 2018, but has authority to transfer funds from other accounts “as necessary to ensure the detention of aliens prioritized for removal.”

HHS

Head Start - the bill provides $9.9 billion for Head Start, an increase of $610 million above FY17 enacted levels. ACF - $28 billion in discretionary funding for the Administration for Children and Families, which is $4 billion above the FY17 enacted level. LIHEAP - the bill includes $3.64 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which is $250 million more than FY17 and the highest funding level for the block grant since FY11. CCDBG - the bill provides $5.23 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which is $2.37 billion more than FY17 enacted levels. The additional funding represents an 83 percent increase, and the largest single-year increase in the program’s history. Administration for Community Living - $2.2 billion is provided for ACL, which is $178 million above FY17 enacted levels. Of this amount, $59 million will be directed to senior nutrition programs. Within the senior nutrition programs, $246 million is provided for the Meals on Wheels program, an increase of $19 million.

HUD

12.5 percent increase in low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) allocations for four years and a provision allowing income averaging for LIHTC properties on a permanent basis.

$3.3 billion for CDBG formula grants, $300 million above the FY17 enact level.

$22.02 billion is included for Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, an increase of $3.6 billion over FY17 enacted level.

Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance - $11.5 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance, $700 million above the FY17 enacted level

$40 million is provided for Section 8 rental assistance directed for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, level with the FY17 enacted level.

Homeless Assistance Grants are funded at $2.5 billion, which is $130 million above the current enacted level.

HOME is funded at $1.4 billion, $412 million above the FY17 enacted level.

Choice Neighborhoods - the bill rejects the President’s proposal to eliminate this important affordable housing redevelopment program and instead provides $150 million to support more than 30 neighborhood revitalization grants. This level of funding is $12.5 million more than fiscal FY17.

$80 million is included to address Youth Homelessness, this is a $37 million increase over FY17 enacted levels.
HUD Budget Hearings

Last week, HUD Secretary Ben Carson testified before the House Transportation HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Banking Committee regarding the FY19 budget request. Secretary Carson focused on the HUD centerpiece of promoting economic opportunity and self-sufficiency. (See attached memo)

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

II. State Legislative Update – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

On March 21, Senator Toni Atkins became the new President pro Tempore of the California Senate. This change in leadership will ultimately lead to other party leadership changes and committee assignments. We will keep the County updated on these changes as they arise.

As a reminder, below are a few of the upcoming important legislative deadlines:
- April 2 – Legislature Convenes from Spring Recess
- April 27 – Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills to fiscal committees
- May 11 – Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the floor non-fiscal bills
- May 18 – Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 4
- June 1 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house
- June 15 – Final Budget must be passed by midnight
- June 28 – Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the November 2018 ballot

Update on County Sponsored Bills

AB 2111 (Quirk), Alameda County’s sponsored bill, which will align CalWORKs sponsor deeming provisions with those used for CalFresh for sponsored non-citizens indigence determinations, will be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 24, 2018.

Initiative Update

The County has expressed interest in several potential November ballot initiatives. Below are links to these initiatives and related information:

The County has expressed interest in several potential November ballot initiatives.

- **Restricts parole for non-violent offenders** – Status – 25% of signatures reached as of 2/6/2018; Circulation Deadline – 7/3/2018 (365,880 signatures required)
- **Eliminates certain liability for lead-paint manufacturers** – Status – 25% of signatures reached as of 2/22/2018; Circulation Deadline – 7/25/2018 (365,880 signatures required)
- **Expands local governments authority to enact rent control on residential property** – Status – 25% of signatures reached as of 2/26/2018; Circulation Deadline – 6/25/2018 (365,880 signatures required)
- **Expands requirement for supermajority approval to enact new revenue measures** – Status – 25% of signatures reached as of 2/26/2018; Circulation deadline – 7/25/2018 (585,407 signatures required)

Health Care Legislative Package

Last week, the Care 4 All California Coalition announced a fresh legislative package of health-care related bills aimed at advancing the Affordable Care Act.
In a recent announcement, the coalition outlined their legislative priorities which include finding pathways to universal health care, affordability, reducing costs and prices of health care, and patient protection. Bills included in the package are the following:

- AB 315 (Wood) Pharmacy benefit management.
- AB 595 (Wood) Health care service plans: mergers and acquisitions.
- AB 2499 (Arambula) Health care coverage: medical loss ratios.
- SB 538 (Monning) Hospital contracts.
- SB 790 (McGuire) Health care providers: gifts and benefits.
- SB 910 (Hernandez) Short-term limited duration health insurance.
- SB 1021 (Wiener) Prescription drugs.
- SB 1108 (Hernandez) Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage.
- This legislative package seeks to address both specific health care discussions that have taken place in the Legislature regarding universal care, and others are based on broad principals. We will continue to monitor the efforts of the coalition and its attempts to reform California’s health care system.

Lead-Paint Legislative Package

Last Thursday, several Assembly Democrats put forth a legislative package to address the toxic lead-based paint problem existing in millions of homes throughout California. The bills will safeguard Californians from the negative health consequences associated with toxic lead-based paint by making it easier to hold companies liable for selling it to consumers. Bills included in the package are the following:

- AB 2074 (Bonta) Civil actions: injury to property: lead-based paint.
- AB 2073 (Chiu) Public nuisance: abatement: lead-based paint.
- AB 2934 (Stone) Residential lead-based paint hazard reduction program: local health departments: certification.
- AB 2803 (Limón) Carpenter-Presley-Tanner Hazardous Substance Account Act.
- AB 2995 (Carrillo) Civil actions: injury to property: lead-based paint.
- AB 3009 (Quirk) Hazardous materials: lead-based paint.

The initiative would authorize a $2 billion bond to pay for the removal of lead paint. Initiative proponents have until July 25 to collect 365,880 signatures to qualify for the ballot.

IHSS Webinar

On Friday, April 6, the California State Association of Counties will hold an informational webinar on In-Home Support Services (IHSS) changes and next steps. The IHSS clean-up language in AB 110 and the updated revenue projections in the Governor’s January budget proposal have moved implementation efforts forward. This webinar will explore how the accelerated caseload growth amount is being updated, what the impact is of the wage supplement clean-up language, and what changes to expect in the May Revision.

Purpose:

- [ ] Report progress
- [ ] Advocacy or Education
- [ ] Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- [x] Other: State Update

Request for Legislation Position – Action Items

i. **AB 2308** (Stone) Cigarettes: single-use filters

   **Recommendation:** **Support:** Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency and Nate Miley, Board of Supervisors, District 4
ii. **SB 910** (Hernandez) Short-term limited duration health insurance

*Recommendation: Support:* Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency and Wilma Chan, President, Board of Supervisors, District 3

**Purpose:**
- [ ] Report progress
- [ ] Advocacy or Education
- [x] Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- [ ] Other:

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

**Information Items**

Positions taken under authority of the adopted 2018 Legislative Platform for immediate action by legislative advocates:

i. **California Future Health Workforce Commission to prioritize the needs of communities of color and other disadvantaged populations**

*Recommendation: Support:* Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency

ii. **Governor Brown’s FY 2018-2019 Proposed budget; Request the restoration of the $56.5 million for the CalWORKs Single Allocation**

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

iii. **Governor Brown’s FY 2018-2019 Proposed budget; Restrict 340B Drug Reimbursement within the Medi-Cal Program**

*Recommendation: Oppose:* Wilma Chan, President, Board of Supervisors, District 3 and Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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