Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week. Congress will continue to hear from Trump Administration officials testifying on behalf of the President’s budget request. There are also rumors that the Senate will begin work on its healthcare legislation around June 26th, but that could potentially slide a few days (earlier or later) and possibly into July.

The full House will take up several bipartisan bills under suspension this week that were a part of the Family First Prevention Act in the 114th Congress:

- H.R. 2857 (Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act) – state and tribal governments could use foster care maintenance funds to cover the cost of placing children with parents residing in family-based substance abuse facilities.
- H.R. 2866 (Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act) – HHS would be required to develop licensing standards for foster family homes by October 2018. States would have to notify HHS by April 2019 if their licensing standards are in line with the national model.
- H.R. 2834 (Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act) – federal grants would be modified to specifically account for opioid and heroin abuse.
- H.R. 2847 (Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act) – would allow individuals to receive support under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program until age 23 if they live in a state that has extended foster care to age 21. It would also provide support to all youths age 14 and older who have been in foster care.
- H.R. 2742 (Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act) – states would be required to implement an electronic case management system to expedite the cross-state placement of children in foster care with relatives or an adoptive family.
- H.R. 2842 (Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act) – a grant program would be established for states to create subsidized employment demonstration projects for TANF recipients.

FY18 Budget & Appropriations

House Republicans continue to be at odds regarding an FY18 budget resolution and are continuing internal negotiations in the hopes of reaching a final deal. They want to pass an FY18 budget resolution in order to use reconciliation instructions to enact tax reform without needing Democratic support this year. The House Budget Committee will not act on a resolution this week and action in Committee next week would mean Members would return home for the July 4 recess having to detail controversial positions in the budget. The full House Republican conference is expected to discuss the budget at its Wednesday morning meeting.

House Budget Committee Chair Diane Black (R-TN) has offered the conference’s most conservative members $150 billion in entitlement cuts over 10 years, in exchange for raising the cap on defense spending to $621.5 billion, an increase of $72.5 billion over the current $549 billion fiscal 2018 cap. House Freedom Caucus members want a higher level of entitlement cuts and ironclad reconciliation instructions that would make tax cuts contingent on entitlement cuts.
However, the Appropriations Committee is moving forward with bills absent a budget resolution. Last week, the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY18 Military Construction – Veteran’s Affairs spending bill on a voice vote. In total, the legislation provides $88.8 billion in discretionary funding, $6 billion above the FY17 level to include $638 million in Overseas Contingency Operations funding. Within the total, funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs is increased by $4 billion or 5 percent over the FY17 level, including funding to increase access to services for veterans, and to increase oversight and accountability within the department.

Health Care Update

The timing on a potential floor vote on the Senate healthcare bill is still very uncertain. Senate Republican Conference Chair John Thune (R-SD) said there is a “50-50” chance that a vote before the end of June would happen. He said that’s still the plan, but policy differences remain and Senators still have to consider the highly-anticipated CBO score. It is unclear when the Senate bill text will become available to the public, but we have heard that it is possible the text may be made available this Thursday. Senate Democrats signaled support for potentially obstructing Republican plans, as they reportedly are trying to shut down Senate business over the closed-door work on the healthcare bill.

On the House side, Republicans have been advancing what they call the “third bucket” of ACA repeal and replace measures. The first bucket was “regulatory” changes that Secretary Price is undertaking, the AHCA is the second bucket, and this third bucket includes non-budget related reforms. It is unclear to what extent any of these policies would be included in the drafting of the Senate bill.

Hearings

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on “Examining the Extension of Safety Net Health Programs.” This hearing was originally scheduled for last week, but was postponed due to the shooting.

The House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations will hold a hearing on “Juvenile Justice Reform in the Modern Era.”

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 – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Last Thursday, June 15, 2017, the Legislature sent a $125 billion state budget to the Governor, meeting their constitutional deadline. The budget package includes the main budget bill AB 97, along with several trailer bills ranging from cannabis regulation to the deal reached on the repeal of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). There are still budget trailer bills that need to be acted on by the Legislature. This is due to the 72-hour in print rule and the fact that there are still some outstanding issues to be negotiated between the Legislature and Governor, including Cap and Trade.

The main budget bill and the trailer bills passed by the Legislature on Thursday are now on the Governor’s desk awaiting action. The Governor has until June 27, 2017, to sign and potentially line-item veto the Budget Act.

Update on County Sponsored Bills

AB 333 (Quirk), Alameda County sponsored bull to transfer ownership of a portion of State Route 185 at East 14th Street and Mission Boulevard within unincorporated Alameda County, will be heard on June 20, 2017, in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.
AB 435 (Thurmond), Alameda County’s Child Care Pilot Program clean-up bill will be heard on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, in the Senate Education Committee.

SB 703 (Skinner) Alameda County’s bill to enable the County to impose a transactions and use tax at a rate of no more than 0.5% above the combined stature rate limit of 2%, given voter approval, will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 28, 2017.

Immigration

Senate President pro temp Kevin de León held a press conference alongside former United States Attorney General Eric Holder, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck and top law enforcement officials, regarding support of SB 54 (de León) – The California Values Act, which will provide essential safeguards to ensure that police, schools, health facilities and courts remain accessible to all Californians by prohibiting law enforcement from engaging in immigration enforcement.

On June 16, 2017, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Senator Ricardo Lara announced that the California Department of Justice will begin reviewing the conditions under which immigrants are being detained while awaiting immigration hearings. Following the passage of the 2017-8 budget bill, the Department of Justice is now charged with reporting these conditions in an ongoing review through the year 2027.

California Citizens Compensation Commission

The California Citizens Compensation Commission, established by Proposition 112 in 1990, is responsible for setting the salaries and benefits of the Legislature and California elected officials. Today the Commission approved a 3% pay increase for Governor Brown and Legislators, starting in December. This increase follows a 4% salary increase that went into effect late last year.

Federal Grants Available

The Office of Minority Health, at the United States Department of Health and Human Services, is offering up to $35,000 for up to three years, through the Empowered Communities for a Healthier nation Initiative. The grants are aimed at reducing health disparities among disadvantaged communities and racial and ethnic minorities, with a focus on serving communities impacted by the opioid crisis, mental health disorders and obesity among young children and adolescents. Applications are due no later than August 1, 2017.

Stepping Up Webinar

The Stepping Up Initiative is a national effort to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. On June 9, 2017, Stepping Up will host a webinar exploring comprehensive services for the mentally ill. They will provide an overview on key strategies for conducting comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services for those in local detention facilities and will provide resources on how to use the analyses to identify key opportunities to enhance services provided.

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. **AB 17 (Holden) Transit Pass Pilot Program: free or reduced-fare transit passes**

*Recommendation: Support:*
Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency and Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency
ii. **AB 279** (Holden) Developmental Disabilities: regional centers  
*Recommendation: Support:* Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency and Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency  

iii. **AB 415** (Chiu) CalFresh: Employment Social Enterprises  
*Recommendation: Support:* Keith Carson, District 5, Board of Supervisors and Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency  

iv. **AB 1200** (Cervantes) Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection program  
*Recommendation: Support:* Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency and Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency  

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
None.  

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