

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 4, 2013

SUBJECT: The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) "Protect the Health Care Safety Net" Coalition

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Riverside County Board of Supervisors joins the CSAC "Protect the Health Care Safety Net" Coalition.

BACKGROUND: Riverside County, like many California counties, supports a state expansion of Medi-Cal and believes California must act quickly so the state does not miss the opportunity to receive federal funds to expand health care services for our indigent and low-income populations. Implementing federal health reform provides an opportunity to cover as many uninsured people as possible, while protecting and improving the local health care safety net. The County of Riverside strongly supports this goal and is committed to the timely implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

While the Governor's May Revise contained provisions we appreciated, specifically that the redistribution of funds should be based on actual savings generated by the (ACA) rather than an arbitrary number, the redirection of funds comes too soon, and the "true up" process transpires too late. The result is that counties will be forced to make cuts to vital safety net and public health services, which will erode county health care programs and services to the indigent and low-income populations.

The CSAC "Protect The Health Care Safety Net" is a growing coalition of consumer groups, labor, public hospitals, clinics and other health care providers and advocates who are opposed to this budget proposal and who are working to implement health care reform in a way that covers as many of the uninsured as possible and protects the health care safety net that California counties are mandated to provide

Riverside County is not in a position to take on more programs, responsibilities and risk, especially when its health care systems are undergoing dramatic changes. Riverside County has been, and commits to continue being good partners with the administration and the legislature. By working closely with CSAC and its "Protect the Health Care Safety Net" coalition, it is our hope that we can continue working with Governor Brown and his administration to come to an agreement that is both fiscally responsible and fulfills the promises of the Affordable Care Act.

John Tavaglione
Second District Supervisor

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