

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



**ITEM
2.18
(ID # 10356)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 23, 2019

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File Letter of Support for H.R . 2858 The Finding Orphan-disease Remedies with Antifungal Research and Development Act (FORWARD), All Districts [\$0].

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the attached letter of support that was sent to Washington D.C.

ACTION:Consent


FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File Letter of Support for H.R. 2858 - The

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 23, 2019
xc: EO

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Board Policy A-27 provides the Executive Office three options to send a letter of support or opposition to pending legislation. One of those options is when a topic is covered in the current Legislative Platform, the Executive Office has the ability to ask the Chair for his or her signature on the letter. Once the letter has been sent, the Executive Office is required to bring the letter to the full board as a receive and file item at the next Board Meeting. This Form 11 is a receive and file of a letter that was sent on June 19th.

Summary

Since the last meeting of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, the following letter was delivered to our legislative delegation and all pertinent parties in order to voice Riverside County's Support:

Bill: H.R 2858 the Finding Orphan-disease Remedies with Antifungal Research and Development (FORWARD) Act

Position: Support

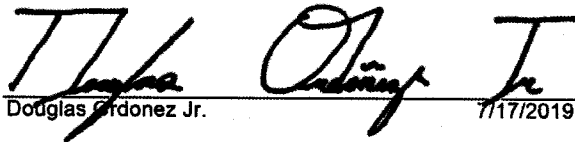
Background: The fungus that causes Valley fever when inhaled is known to be present in the soil in Riverside County, primarily in the desert regions but county-wide. We have already had 119 cases for 2019 year to date. Compared with 81 in all of 2018 and 40 in 2017. H.R. 2858, the Finding Orphan-disease Remedies with Antifungal Research and Development (FORWARD) Act addresses the short-, medium-, and long-term challenges to detecting, treating, and eventually eradicating Valley Fever. The following bill:

- Authorizes \$8M/year for FY21-25 for universities, hospitals, public health stakeholders, and non-profits to apply for a Federal matching grant to supplement state funding directed toward U.S. endemic fungal disease research and requiring the proposal to be peer-reviewed.
- Directs HHS to hold at least two public Valley Fever workshops to bring together experts on Valley Fever treatments and vaccines.
- Directs HHS to include Valley Fever on the list of infectious diseases eligible under the Tropical Disease Priority Review Voucher (PRV) Program. (While the Tropical Disease PRV Program lists certain diseases that are mainly tropical diseases, the Secretary has

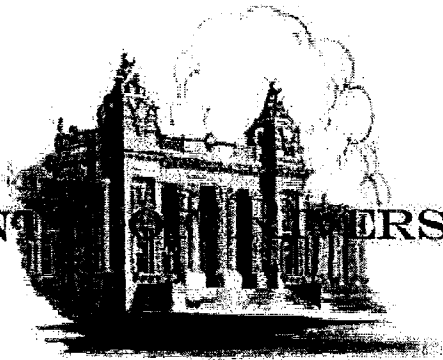
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added non-tropical diseases to this program, as has Congress by law. This creates a precedent to add Valley Fever to the PRV Program.)

Unfortunately, this case count in Riverside County is also almost certainly an underestimate, as most cases of Valley fever recover without specific treatment. In addition, an unlucky few will have symptoms as these individuals have and a minority of those will go on to develop serious and sometimes lifelong debilitating illness.


Douglas Ordonez Jr. 7/17/2019

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

District 1 <i>Chairman</i>	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Jeff Hewitt 951-955-1050

June 19, 2019

Hon. Kevin McCarthy,
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC. 20515

RE: H.R. 2858, the Finding Orphan-disease Remedies with Antifungal Research and Development (FORWARD) Act. SUPPORT-Per Legislative Platform

Dear Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to strongly endorse your legislation H.R. 2858, the Finding Orphan-disease Remedies with Antifungal Research and Development (FORWARD) Act. By addressing the short-, medium-, and long-term challenges to detecting, treating, and eventually eradicating Valley Fever, your legislation will meet a critical concern of our County.

The fungus that causes Valley fever when inhaled is known to be present in the soil in Riverside County, primarily in the desert regions but county-wide. We have already had 119 cases for 2019 year to date. Compared with 81 in all of 2018 and 40 in 2017. Unfortunately, this case count is also almost certainly an underestimate, as most cases of Valley fever recover without specific treatment. In addition, an unlucky few will have symptoms as these individuals have and a minority of those will go on to develop serious and sometimes lifelong debilitating illness.

By partnering with both Senators from Arizona (S. 1567) you have demonstrated that this is a multi-state and non-partisan issue. With Arizona accounting for nearly 2/3 of the cases of Valley Fever nationwide, the impetus for moving both bills is undeniable. In particular, we would like to commend you for including the following features on H.R. 2858:

-Authorizing \$8M/year for FY21-25 for universities, hospitals, public health stakeholders, and non-profits to apply for a Federal matching grant to supplement state funding directed toward U.S. endemic fungal disease research and requiring the proposal to be peer-reviewed.

-Directing HHS to hold at least two public Valley Fever workshops to bring together experts on Valley Fever treatments and vaccines.

-Directing HHS to include Valley Fever on the list of infectious diseases eligible under the Tropical Disease Priority Review Voucher (PRV) Program. (While the Tropical Disease PRV Program lists certain diseases that are mainly tropical diseases, the Secretary has added non-tropical diseases to this program, as has Congress by law. This creates a precedent to add Valley Fever to the PRV Program.)

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
June 19th 2019
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For our part, we will encourage our local Congressional delegation to cosponsor and support H.R. 2858 and we stand ready to assist you in any way that we can. Should you or your staff have any questions about the incidence of Valley Fever within Riverside County, do not hesitate to contact Brian Nestande at bnestande@rivco.org or (951) 955-1110.

We thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jeffries – Chairman
Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Riverside County Legislative Delegation