

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



**ITEM: 2.4
(ID # 21465)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, March 28, 2023

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for March 2023, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for March 2023.

ACTION:Consent


Jeff Van Wageningen, County Executive Officer 3/22/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: March 28, 2023
xc: E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

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

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Monthly Advocacy Update (March 2023)

CSAC Priority Bill List.2023.03

Monday, March 13		
ASM - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Upon adjournment of Joint Emergency Management Committee - State Capitol, Room 444		
AB 415 (Rodriguez) Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act.	Kalyn Dean	Support
ASM - NATURAL RESOURCES - 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447		
AB 356 (Mathis) California Environmental Quality Act: aesthetic impacts.	Mark Neuburger	Support
ASM - REVENUE AND TAXATION - 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126		
AB 321 (Wilson) Sales and Use Tax: exemptions: zero-emission public transportation ferries.	Kalyn Dean	Support
Tuesday, March 14		
ASM - PUBLIC SAFETY - 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 126		
AB 479 (Rubio, Blanca) Alternative domestic violence program.	Ryan Morimune	Support
Wednesday, March 15		
SEN - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200		
SB 91 (Umberg) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: supportive and transitional housing: motel conversion.	Mark Neuburger	Support
SB 406 (Cortese) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: financial assistance: housing.	Santa Clara	Sponsor

CSAC Priority Bill List.2023.03

CSAC/County Priority Bills
Week of March 20, 2023

SB 532 (Wiener) Ballot measures: local taxes.	Kalyn Dean	Support
Monday, March 20		
ASM - TRANSPORTATION - 2:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100		
AB 744 (Carrillo, Juan) California Transportation Commission: data, modeling, and analytic software tools procurement.	Mark Neuburger	Support
SEN - HUMAN SERVICES - 3 p.m. or upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200		
SB 462 (Wahab) General assistance.	Santa Clara	Sponsor
Tuesday, March 21		
ASM - JUDICIARY - 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 437		
AB 875 (Gabriel) Courts: data reporting.	Los Angeles	Sponsor
ASM - PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION - 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126		
AB 386 (Nguyen, Stephanie) California Right to Financial Privacy Act.	Justin Garrett	Support
Wednesday, March 22		
ASM - APPROPRIATIONS - 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100		
AB 78 (Ward) Grand juries.	Kalyn Dean	Oppose Unless Amended
SEN - EDUCATION - 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2100		
SB 10 (Cortese) Pupil health: opioid overdose prevention and treatment.	Santa Clara	Sponsor
ASM - LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 127		
AB 562 (Carrillo, Wendy) Local government finance: the County of Los Angeles.	Los Angeles	Sponsor

MONTHLY ADVOCACY UPDATE

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations. The Monthly Advocacy Update is meant to meet that requirement.

This report includes updates on the County's federal and state legislative advocacy efforts, legislation of interest, and copies of advocacy letters sent.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Members of Congress have released updated rules and timelines for congressionally directed funding. The County has interests in several of the projects submitted and wrote letters of support (Attachment A).

Outreach & Communications

- Representative Ken Calvert's Annual visit with RivCo took place on February 28. County leaders provided a tour of the EMD Command Center in Riverside and presented on various legislative priorities. Highlights included FEMA reimbursements, Asylum Seeker Response funding, and federal funding of behavioral health.
- Members of the Board of Supervisors attended the Annual NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC in February, to advocate for County priorities. In addition to meeting with members of the RivCo legislative delegation, Board Members met with representatives from the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Department of Labor.
- The County hosted its first RivCo 101 event on 03/15/23. County leaders provided an overview of County government to legislative staffers in attendance.

CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

Over 2808 legislative measures were introduced in the state legislature. The Executive Office is working with department leaders to identify bills of interest to the County. The Governor's initial proposed budget included several items that significantly impact the County's budget. The Board has sent correspondence regarding some of the budgetary items that fall under the County's legislative priorities (Attachments B and C).

Outreach & Communications

- RUHS Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari, who is the current President of the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) testified before Assembly Budget Subcommittee # 1 on Health and Human Services on 3/6/23. She advocated against state budget cuts for the healthcare workforce pipeline (Attachment B).
- RUHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Rhyann Miller, testified at the 'Fentanyl and the Ongoing Opioid Crisis: Public Safety and Public Health Perspectives' Joint

Informational Hearing of the Public Safety & Health Committees on 02/27/23, to discuss state programs and the County's plans for sustaining services.

- The County hosted its first RivCo 101 event on 3/15/23. County leaders provided an overview of County government to legislative staffers in attendance.

RivCo Bill List

118th Congress

- **H.R.696 (Rep. Calvert, Ken [CA-41])** To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on 2/7/23]
- **H.R.726 (Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [MI-9])** To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.
Position: Watch

2023 California Legislative Session

- **AB 386 (Nguyen) California Right to Financial Privacy Act.** This bill would improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from financial abuse.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 03/14/23 Attachment D]
Impact: The bill was proposed by the RivCo Department of Child Support Services and is sponsored by the California Welfare Directors Association.
- **SB 45 (Roth) California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund.** Creates the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund and would continuously appropriate moneys to provide loans to qualifying county or city and county applicants for the purpose of building or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities, or psychiatric units in general acute care hospitals, as defined.
Position: Support
Advocacy Strategy: In addition to supporting the bill, RUHS is encouraging community partners to submit letters of support (Attachment E).
- **SB 75 (Roth) Courts: Judgeships.** This bill would authorize 26 additional judgeships, subject to appropriation. This bill would require the Judicial Council to determine the allocation of those positions, pursuant their uniform criterion, resulting in six additional judges for Riverside County Courts.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.50 on 1/24/23]
Advocacy Strategy: RivCo leaders have highlighted the impacts of judicial shortages during meetings with members of the legislative delegation and have submitted a formal letter of support (Attachment F).

- **SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh) Undomesticated burros.** This bill would also authorize a nonprofit that contracts with a county to provide services to undomesticated burros.
Position: Sponsor [Letter of Sponsorship sent 03/08/23 Attachment G]
Impact: This bill was proposed by RivCo Animal Services. If passed this bill would allow animal services to work with nonprofit providers to provide services to the burro population.



Board of Supervisors

- District 1** **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** **Yxstian Gutierrez**
951-955-1050

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
 United States Senate
 112 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Funding for the Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of Riverside County, I write in support of the Riverside County Transportation Commission’s (RCTC) CDS request for \$5 million for the Coachella Valley Rail (CV Rail) Project Tier II Approval and Environmental Documentation phase.

As the only region of its size and population in the state without daily intercity rail service, the CV Rail Project will create critical connections to the Inland Southern California region. In partnership with the California Department of Transportation and the Federal Rail Administration, RCTC is working on developing this 144-mile route connecting Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties into the Coachella Valley.

Both the state and federal governments continue to prioritize investments in transportation projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), ensure equity and access, and support a climate-resilient future. CV Rail fulfills these priorities, the project presents significant economic opportunities by opening travel to restaurants, resorts, music festivals, sports facilities, and commercial and retail centers along the route.

The Service Development Plan and National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA/CEQA) Tier I environmental clearance for the corridor was completed and unanimously approved in July 2022. This investment would help advance both the NEPA/CEQA Tier II Project Approval and the Environmental Documentation phase of the Project in the next step toward construction.

The CV Rail Project is a once-in-a-generation regionally transformational project that will provide a sustainable and equitable mobility option, connect diverse communities, and spur economic growth and prosperity. For these reasons, we are proud to support RCTC’s request for \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for the CV Rail Project.

Attachment A

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin Jeffries
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors



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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Funding for Box Spring Mountain Reserve

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of Riverside County, I write in support of the CDS request to fund the Box Springs Reserve. Making it safer, more sustainable, and more accessible to residents and students in the community, while protecting the habitat it was designed to preserve.

Box Springs Mountain Reserve consists of 3,400 acres of natural habitat overlooking Riverside, Moreno Valley, and the larger Inland Empire. One of Riverside's landmarks is the "Big C" located on the side of one of the mountains in the Reserve, and many UCR students and alumni consider it a tradition to climb to the "Big C". Unfortunately, there is currently no safe or legal access to the "Big C" trail, as the existing path crosses the Metrolink Rail Line on an unsafe, unmarked route that is not authorized by Metrolink.

In an effort to find a safe, legal, and sustainable route to the "Big C" and other portions of the Reserve, RivCo Parks commissioned a Comprehensive Trails Master Plan for the Reserve, which won the 2016 California Trails and Greenways Planning Award. Unfortunately, they have been unable to obtain the funding necessary to fix and improve the trail system, and the Plan has sat waiting for the right opportunity to be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jeffries
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors



Board of Supervisors

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March 2, 2023

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Kevin Jeffries
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors



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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Governor’s Proposal to Cut \$49.8 Million in Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs
Riverside County– OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Arambula and Senator Menjivar:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to oppose the Governor’s January budget proposal to cut \$49.8 million General Fund in public health workforce training and development programs made possible through the 2022 Budget Act.

Riverside County’s public health department serves as the first line of defense against all public health threats for the county. To carry out this key responsibility, we rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce. The public health workforce has faced significant challenges, including loss of key staff to retirement and positions remaining vacant for extended periods of time because of the lack of qualified candidates. For example, our Public Health Laboratory Director position has been vacant and in recruitment for 3 years, despite our raising the salary to be more competitive with other labs. This position is a highly skilled and technical position, and there are very few candidates who meet the minimum qualifications to serve in this capacity. In addition, we have lost Epidemiologists, Public Health Nurses and microbiologists to the private sector, where the salaries are significantly higher and sign-on bonuses are offered. The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly exacerbated these challenges as public health professionals have grappled with burnout and harassment, as well as being recruited by other employers.

The public health workforce development and training programs approved in the 2022 Budget Act represent the very few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California. While other workforce-related investments are proposed for delay in the Governor’s January budget, the public health workforce investment items below are slated to be entirely cut, not deferred.

The proposed \$49.8 million cut would impact all or some of the following public health workforce training and development programs:

- Public Health Workforce Career Ladder Education and Development Program that provides education and training for existing employees within the public health workforce. This program provides an avenue for staff to gain the skills necessary to promote within the Public Health Department. Although we haven't participated yet, we do plan to as a mechanism to increase the pipeline of qualified individuals and reduce the amount of time it takes to fill a vacancy.
- California Public Health Pathways Training Corps, provides a workforce pathway for early-career public health professionals from diverse backgrounds and disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention and control, community engagement, and emergency response activities at local health department host sites. Riverside County currently hosts one Pathways fellow. During the first part of their assignment, they worked in our Disease Control Branch where they assisted with investigations and provided education to community members. This individual is now working in our HIV/AIDS/STD Branch where they are part of our Street Liaison Team and conduct outreach to high-risk community members. We have also requested to host another fellow in the upcoming cycle.
- California Microbiologist Training increases the number of Public Health Microbiologist Trainee spots in California, a requirement that must be fulfilled to become a California Certified Public Health Microbiologist. Riverside County currently has three microbiologist trainees in our Public Health Laboratory who are working towards their Public Health Microbiologist certification. If this funding is cut, it will be very difficult to hire laboratory staff and get them the training they need to become certified microbiologists.
- Public Health Lab Aspire addresses the severe shortage of trained and qualified public health laboratory directors. As mentioned, Riverside County has been unable to recruit and hire a Public Health Laboratory Director for over 3 years. The Public Health Laboratory Director position in California requires a PhD or MD/DO, and certification from the American Board of Bioanalysis in Public Health Microbiology or a certification from the American Board of Medical Microbiology, and a California Public Health Microbiologist certification. Few individuals possess all of these qualifications – and the Public Health Lab Aspire was designed to address this challenge by supporting individuals in obtaining these certifications and trainings so that they are ready to step into a Public Health Laboratory Director position when one becomes available.
- California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS) prepares epidemiologists for public health leadership positions throughout California. Riverside County hosted 2 Cal-EIS fellows in the past. These fellows added capacity to our Epidemiology Unit and enhanced our ability to conduct analysis that impacts policy and service delivery in our communities. They also assisted with generating comprehensive reports on the health status of our communities and provided presentations on data analysis findings for County departments and other community stakeholders. One of these positions transitioned to a permanent position. Riverside County also requested to host another Cal-EIS fellow in the upcoming cycle.

Our nation has experienced what the impacts of understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for community spread and outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. California must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and

development. For these reasons, Riverside County urges the Legislature to reject the Administration's proposed elimination of \$49.8 million for public health workforce training and development programs.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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March 8, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Governor's Proposal to Provide Additional Funding to the California Department of Child Support Services for local child support agencies (LCSAs)
Riverside County– Support**

Dear Chairs Skinner and Ting:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to support the Governor's January budget proposal to provide an additional \$35.8 million (\$12.1 million State General Fund) to the California Department of Child Support Services for support of LCSAs. It is estimated that Riverside County will receive \$3.4 million of this additional funding, allowing the County to add approximately 30 key positions that will help provide appropriate service levels to our customers.

Child support is a vital component of efforts to address California's child poverty crisis. The Riverside County Department of Child Support Services provides child support services to Riverside children who rely on regular child support payments for necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. The majority of families participating in the child support program are low- or very low-income households, and are especially dependent on income received from reliable child support payments. As the current budget deficit raises the possibility of reductions in social safety net programs, the availability of child support services will become even more important.

Beginning in 2002-03, LCSAs were flat funded for over 15 years. A Level of Effort (LOE) study was completed in 2018 which identified appropriate resource levels for each LCSA, with the intention of providing adequate funding to LCSAs over a three-year period. Due to several factors, the total amount of funding identified as necessary in the LOE study has not been provided, and LCSAs continue to be underfunded. In addition, new program mandates, such as the federal Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization (FEM) Act, will create new workload mandates which are not compensated for in the Governor's budget proposal.

While these LCSA fiscal needs will continue, we recognize the challenging State budget environment within which the committees are working. Riverside County appreciates the inclusion of these funds in the Governor's budget proposal and urges the committees to support their inclusion in the budget. Should

Attachment C

you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
David Kilgore, Director, California Department of Child Support Services



Board of Supervisors

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March 16, 2023

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Early Childhood Education
Riverside County– SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Arambula and Senator Menjivar:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to support additional investments in early care and education (ECE). A critical investment in California’s ECE system is required to prevent catastrophic additional closures of childcare and education programs across the state.

Riverside County supports the following investments:

- **25% increase to current rates** for immediate relief and adoption of an alternative methodology using a cost estimation model which includes a timeline for implementation for the actual cost of care based on program enrollment without charging families fees;
- **Allocate all 20,000 childcare spaces scheduled to be released in 2023-24.** We know thousands of families need access to childcare today, and if the state allocates funds by October of 2023, there would not be a delay in enrolling new families.

California needs a rate system that covers the full cost of care. The new rate system must include the full cost of care, eliminating the need to charge families fees for those making below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI). This change will make a real difference in the lives of working families currently paying fees by putting money directly back into their pockets. Families need continued investment in community-based ECE spaces to ensure that all children, specifically 4-year-old children, and families, have equitable access to numerous ECE options that meet their needs.

Today, there are childcare, preschool, and Head Start centers with empty classrooms, not for the lack of families in need of care, but rather the centers cannot find staff willing to work for the

low wages offered because of the current low reimbursement rate. In certain regions of California, providers are so short staffed, they must close down for a day when a teacher calls in sick, leaving families scrambling to find care and/or forcing parents to stay home from work. Some Family Child Care Home providers are making so little, they are losing money to care for California's children.

Providers are leaving the ECE field, to find better wages at fast-food chains. California's antiquated rate system does not disperse resources equitably and lags the actual cost of care. Providers cannot wait another year to receive a rate increase without harming California's ECE system, children, and families across the state. Children who were born during the pandemic, are going to need additional support for their social and emotional development. With the impact of social distancing, racial injustice, sickness, grief, and learning loss, it is imperative to provide stability to ECE providers and the families they support.

The ECE system has a unique place in our economy because it is necessary for all parents/guardians to work. Regardless of your tax bracket, parents and guardians need someone to care for and educate their children to work. Continuing to underfund the reimbursement rates means more providers will permanently close their doors, leaving families scrambling to find care and education programs for their children and limiting parents and guardians' participation in the labor market. Research and economists continue to find that public investment in ECE supports economic development.

For the reasons detailed above, Riverside County supports rate increases and allocating 20,000 slots. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1
Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Elizabeth Schmitt, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Megan DeSousa, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



Board of Supervisors

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District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Early Childhood Education
Riverside County– SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Arambula and Senator Menjivar:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to support \$75 million in one-time General Funds to enable Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to continue their vital work increasing family stability and preventing children who face multiple risk factors from entering the child welfare system.

Given their pre-existing ties embedded in the community, FRCs have an enhanced relevance this year as: 1) California seeks to increase Community Supports in lieu of over-reporting families of color to Child Protective Services, and 2) the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) prepares for the Community Pathway envisioned in California's Five-Year Prevention Plan, paving the way for the state to draw down federal Family First Prevention Services (FFPSA) funding.

Funding for FRCs can stabilize their impact in child abuse prevention through activities and opportunities that address the research-informed Family Protective Factors, such as:

- **Attachment:** pre-natal supports, Mommy and Me classes, home visiting
- **Parental Resilience:** service brokering, goal-driven case management
- **Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development:** parenting classes, call-in lines
- **Social & Emotional Competence of Children:** early education, play groups, therapy
- **Parental Social Supports:** support groups, parent leadership development, civic engagement
- **Concrete Support in Times of Need:** drop-in material assistance, navigation of public benefits

With poverty being a major driver of family stress, economic and concrete supports have been found to reduce the risk of child abuse by helping families to address basic needs and provide environments for children to thrive. With resources for their core services, FRCs can provide a critical link for families to access such support, acting as a trusted broker, addressing linguistic and cultural barriers, and offering as-needed drop-in assistance. Further, reduced familial stress is also correlated to reduction in child abuse and domestic violence.

The Five-Year Prevention Plan proposed by CDSS and awaiting federal approval envisions Family Resource Centers as a part of the Community Pathway that would help the state screen, assess and provide Evidence Based interventions to build family strengths while providing a trusted space where community members feel safe to interact. However, operational county Comprehensive Prevention Plans are not likely to be fully implemented for another 2 to 3 years. State investment in FRCs now will ensure that they are stable and fully operational as a critical resource to counties when they are ready to contract for services.

For the reasons detailed above, Riverside County supports rate \$75 million for Family Resource Centers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1
Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Elizabeth Schmitt, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Megan DeSousa, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



Board of Supervisors

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March 14, 2023

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
1021 O Street, Room 5220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 386 (Nguyen): California Right to Financial Privacy Act
As Amended MARCH 8, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gabriel:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to in support of AB 386 by Assembly Member Nguyen. This bill will improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from the growing threat of financial abuse.

County APS Departments are responsible for investigating alleged incidences of abuse of older and dependent adults, including financial abuse. This role is expanding with the population that APS serves, which has grown and changed significantly since the program's inception. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older— double what the over-65 population is today. Many of these individuals will also be disabled, cognitively impaired, or facing housing instability. County APS programs struggle to address an evolving landscape of abuse and neglect, including an increase of financial abuse and scams targeting this growing population. As of 2021, California ranks first nationally in total monetary losses, and third in per-capita monetary losses, experienced by victims of elder financial abuse.¹ In Riverside County, over one-third (35%) of all elder and dependent adult abuse investigations involve allegations of financial abuse.

County APS investigators are granted access to certain financial records of an alleged victim under current law. However, a law enforcement agency, district attorney or special agent of the Department of Justice must first certify that a crime report has been filed before APS can access the information of a potential victim of abuse. This typically requires APS, once notified of alleged financial abuse from a mandated reporter, to file a police report prior to submitting a request to a bank or financial institution for access to an individual's financial records.

The requirement to file a police report to access records that are necessary to substantiate reports of financial abuse is a barrier to APS in conducting an effective investigation. Even when APS has reasonable suspicion of abuse, a police report must first be filed to proceed further with the investigation. This requirement makes it more difficult to protect older and dependent adults in a timely manner. No comparable requirement exists for the other types of abuse APS is tasked with investigating.

¹ 2021 DOJ Elder Fraud Report: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1523276/download>

County APS investigators experience further restrictions that impede their ability to protect victims. Once an APS investigator has been granted access, they are restricted to only financial records dating from a period of 30 days before and after the date of any alleged illegal activity (60 days total). Limiting access to such a narrow window of time makes it significantly harder for APS to identify normal spending habits of the alleged victim, which is necessary to identify abnormal and potentially illegal activity.

Additionally, APS is severely limited in the types of financial information that they can access. APS is excluded from accessing information that counties have identified as potentially critical to uncovering financial abuse and scams. This includes information related to newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

AB 386 is intended to address the challenges posed by these tight restrictions. This bill will assist APS in effectively investigating allegations of abuse by: 1) amending the law to allow an APS report of abuse to suffice as a certification that a crime report has been filed that involves financial abuse; 2) extending the period for which APS can request records to 90 days prior and 90 days following the alleged illegal act, and; 3) expanding the types of items APS can request from a bank or financial institution to include information regarding newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

The changes included in this bill will better ensure that APS is able to meet the needs of the growing population of older and dependent adults and uncover incidences of financial abuse. In better protecting victims from identity theft and abuse, this bill ultimately improves victims' privacy from those who would do them harm.

For these reasons, Riverside County supports AB 386, and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote on this bill. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org

Sincerely,



Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Nguyen, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman, Chair
Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 45 (Roth): Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund
As introduced 12/05/22 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 45, Senator Richard Roth's measure that would establish the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Revolving Loan Fund.

The Fund would serve to provide zero-interest loans to assist in financing acute care psychiatric hospital projects repayable over a 30-year period. Given the significant needs of our communities, Riverside County has prioritized investments in our behavioral health infrastructure; in fact, we are actively planning for the replacement of our existing facility with a modern, 100-bed facility that will better integrate mental health, substance use, and physical health services to achieve the best outcomes for our patients. SB 45 offers a significant opportunity to move this critical project forward to increase our capacity as a safety-net hospital and to provide timely, high quality, and patient-centered care that more fully meets the needs of our population.

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California and the tenth largest in the country. Over the past 30 years, the County has experienced dramatic population growth, and with it, demands for county services have increased similarly. According to the Healthy Places Index, the County has a disproportionately large share of underserved individuals and an already large and growing unmet demand for behavioral health services generally. These factors, coupled with a well-documented statewide and local shortage of acute care behavioral health beds, have resulted in an overwhelming burden on hospitals in our region. While the County has worked hard to expand services to support this ever-growing demand, we recognize that significant infrastructure investments are needed to deliver proper care.

Riverside County's existing 1980's Emergency Treatment Services/Inpatient Treatment Facility is outdated and, despite considerable renovations over the past four years, fails to adequately meet current state and federal guidelines. Some examples of the building's shortfalls include:

- Access to building does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Lack of cafeteria and kitchen facilities on site.
- Lack of pediatric inpatient psychiatric services (services for this population do not currently exist in Riverside County).
- Inadequate emergency treatment area to allow for effective management of patient volume.

Attachment E

- Lack of private patient rooms and restrooms.

The County plans to replace this outdated facility with a modern, expanded facility on our existing Medical Center campus in Moreno Valley that includes an additional 180,000 square feet of space, housing 100 inpatient acute behavioral health beds, emergency treatment services, and space for support staff, as follows:

- Adult inpatient units: 4 units with 18 beds each
- Adolescent inpatient unit: 12-16 beds
- Pediatric inpatient unit: 12 beds (including potentially 6 combined pediatric behavioral health/medical beds)
- Emergency treatment services: Pediatric, adolescent, and adult patients will be served in separate, but adjacent spaces, and adjacent to the current Medical Center emergency room, as direct access to physical emergency medical services will not only improve efficiencies in care and service, but will reduce costs.

We anticipate the total cost of such a facility to be \$300-\$400 million.

We greatly appreciate the state's considerable investment in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) to provide additional resources to invest in treatment facilities across the state and are gratified for having been successfully awarded some funding from the program. However, in Riverside alone, our behavioral health infrastructure needs eclipse the entire statewide allocation of funds. Much more must be done to appropriately address behavioral health needs, particularly in underserved parts of the state and particularly in light of counties' responsibilities associated with CARE Court. SB 45 provides a critically needed opportunity for the state to help facilitate an investment in infrastructure that serves to improve patient outcomes for the betterment of us all.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
The Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Richard Roth
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 75 (Roth) – Additional Superior Court Judgeships
As introduced January 11, 2023 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Senate Judiciary Committee**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to affirm the County’s strong support for SB 75, your measure that would create 26 additional superior court judgeships. We are grateful for your ongoing leadership in working to secure additional judicial officers for the long-under resourced Inland Empire.

As you are aware, the Judicial Council of California assesses superior courts’ workload and subsequently produces a biennial report regarding statewide judgeship needs. The Judicial Needs Assessment then prioritizes placement of additionally required judicial officers based on need. The latest assessment, published in fall 2022, identifies a need for 98 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands. Riverside County has the second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need – the superior court’s workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Even after funding 23 previously authorized judgeships in the 2022-23 budget, four of which were directed to the Riverside County Superior Court, the gap between local trial court workload and assessed judicial need remains vast. Steep population growth in Riverside County over the last several decades has greatly outpaced the trial court’s ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources.

The County of Riverside greatly appreciates your steadfast and ongoing efforts to address the issue of judicial resources in the Inland Empire. SB 75 would take another necessary and appropriate step in addressing the clearly demonstrated shortfall in judicial resources across the state. This measure would go a long way toward providing relief to the trial courts and improving access to justice while assisting our county’s criminal justice partners in carrying out their critical functions and fulfilling core county responsibilities related to matters before the court. We stand ready to support this important measure as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Attachment F

Thank you for your leadership. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Tom Umberg, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members and Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Riverside County Delegation



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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March 8, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh): Undomesticated burros
As introduced 2/09/23 – SPONSOR
Awaiting hearing: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Dear Senator Min:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 371, Senator Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh's measure that would authorize a county to contract with a nonprofit entity to assist in the removal, relocation, and medical care of undomesticated burros. This important measure will assist the County to address public safety concerns associated with a growing population of undomesticated burros, while ensuring the protection of the burro population.

Undomesticated burros have been roaming Highgrove and Reche Canyon in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since the 1950s. Today, the burro population in the area is estimated to be well over 1,000, causing major traffic collisions on streets, highways, and railroads, several of which have resulted in deaths.

Although Riverside County Department of Animal Services is authorized to relocate burros under certain circumstances, a lack of staff and resources to treat, rehabilitate, and safely relocate injured burros has created a frustrating situation locally. A local shortage of veterinarians exacerbates this considerable challenge. The Inland Empire, however, is also home to private nonprofit partners who are dedicated to helping serve the burro population. These organizations have financial resources and a cast of dedicated volunteers, in addition to specialized veterinary resources. The County seeks the authority to contract with these nonprofit organizations to assist in managing the burro population, to ensure the health and wellbeing of the burro population and to improve public safety.

To that end, we respectfully urge your most positive consideration of SB 371 when it comes before you for hearing. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do

Attachment G

not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
The Honorable Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate
County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Danl Terrell

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: 3-28-23 Agenda # 2.4

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

Support Oppose Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

Support Oppose Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on “Agenda” Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are “ NOT” on the Agenda/Public Comment:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, a member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning “Oral Communications” segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. Donated time is not permitted during Public Comment.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board’s Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk’s Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead “Elmo” projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the “green” podium light will light. The “yellow” light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the “yellow” light will begin to flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the “red” light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a “Group/Organized Presentation”, please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman’s discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed “Request to Speak” form, and clearly indicated at the bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman, may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.