

Agenda Item 3A: State Advocacy Letters

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District

JANET WOLF
Second District, Chair

DOREEN FARR
Third District

PETER ADAM
Fourth District, Vice Chair



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916)319-2144

RE: AB 171 County Veterans Service Officers Funding – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

As Chair of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to inform you that Santa Barbara County supports AB 171, which seeks to increase assistance funding for County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs).

CVSOs are the initial, local point-of-contact for veteran claimants accessing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They are instrumental in helping our returning veterans understand the complex VA process. AB 171 encourages innovation and rewards outstanding CVSO service by increasing state assistance to \$5.6 million for counties CVSOs activities statewide and to make this increase permanent.

It is critical that CVSOs again receive an allocation increase. For the past two years, funding has been \$5.6 million. If it returns to \$2.6 million, as noted in the Governor's budget, new efforts, including new staff, implemented to care for our veterans will be in jeopardy. There continues to be a large number of underserved veterans and their dependents unaware of the federal and state benefits available to them. Presently, there are an estimated 23,000 veterans living in Santa Barbara County. When factoring in their families, the number this county could potentially serve reaches an estimated 31,000. Passage of AB 171 would make it possible to expand services to thousands of underserved veterans and their dependents.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 171 and wishes you success in its passage. If you have any questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of California's veterans.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

RE: AB 171 County Veterans Service Officers Funding – SUPPORT
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cc: Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Senator Mark Leno - Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Assemblymember Shirley Weber - Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Senator Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Assemblymember Melissa Melendez, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Senator Richard Roth - Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian - Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
Harry Hagen – Treasurer/ Tax Collector/ Public Administrator/ Veterans’ Services
Pete Conaty & Associates