

Federal Issues – Advocacy Letters

- **Comprehensive Immigration Reform**
- **Water Resources Development Act**
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program**
- **Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act**
- **Older Americans Act (OAA)**

SALUD CARBAJAL

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County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 13, 2013

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

- Secure our borders;
- Include a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
- Establish a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Impose no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Include no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserve the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits and provide a sustainable funding stream to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establish an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, and paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Improve and simplify the current legal immigration system; and,
- Provide green cards for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

Dealing with the challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers, and families across our country. In Santa Barbara County, as in many other regions, we have seen the impacts on our communities, especially in the agriculture industry that makes up a major portion of our local economy. On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes these criteria, and to expedite action on appropriate legislation this fall before the opportunity is lost.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

JANET WOLF

Second District

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 13, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

- Secure our borders;
- Include a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
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- Improve and simplify the current legal immigration system; and,
- Provide green cards for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

Dealing with the challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers, and families across our country. In Santa Barbara County, as in many other regions, we have seen the impacts on our communities, especially in the agriculture industry that makes up a major portion of our local economy. On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes these criteria, and to expedite action on appropriate legislation this fall before the opportunity is lost.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 13, 2013

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

- Secure our borders;
- Include a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
- Establish a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Impose no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Include no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserve the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits and provide a sustainable funding stream to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establish an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, and paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Improve and simplify the current legal immigration system; and,
- Provide green cards for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

Dealing with the challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers, and families across our country. In Santa Barbara County, as in many other regions, we have seen the impacts on our communities, especially in the agriculture industry that makes up a major portion of our local economy. On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes these criteria, and to expedite action on appropriate legislation this fall before the opportunity is lost.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

Enclosed for your information are letters I have sent to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster and Ranking Minority Member Rahall in support of Water Resources Development Act reauthorization legislation.

I urge you to continue to work with the Committee as it drafts H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA 2013)*, with particular attention to the following priorities:

- Continue your support for efforts such as Section 124 of the bill to direct that the Army Corps' Vegetation Management Policy be reviewed and revised to take into consideration regional characteristics and habitat for species of concern.
- Support Sections 107, 108 and 114 to establish a Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and increase opportunities for non-Federal interests to support or expedite projects. These innovative efforts could be important for completion of projects such as the Lower Mission Creek flood control project.
- Oppose Section 301 and Section 303, would deauthorize projects simply because they have not been funded. The focus should be on project merits, not funding stream. In the case of the Lower Mission Creek project, substantial work and financial investment have been made and the project should not be summarily deauthorized simply because more recent funding has not been available.
- Ensure that any National Levee Safety Program is focused on safety and maximized flexibility to avoid counter-productive bureaucracy.

Thank you for your attention to these priorities as you develop WRRDA 2013 legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

Enclosure

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 16, 2013

The Honorable William "Bill" Shuster, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of Water Resources Development Act reauthorization legislation.

As your committee marks up H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA 2013)* the County of Santa Barbara requests your attention to the following priorities:

- Thank you for including Section 124 to direct that the Army Corps' Vegetation Management Policy be reviewed and revised to take into consideration regional characteristics and habitat for species of concern.
- Thank you for including Sections 107, 108 and 114 to establish a Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and increase opportunities for non-Federal interests to support or expedite projects. These innovative efforts could be important for completion of projects such as the Lower Mission Creek flood control project.
- The County opposes Section 301 and Section 303 and requests your opposition to any language that would deauthorize projects simply because they have not been funded. The focus should be on project merits, not funding stream. In the case of the Lower Mission Creek project, substantial work and financial investment have been made and the project should not be summarily deauthorized simply because more recent funding has not been available.
- Ensure that any National Levee Safety Program is focused on safety and maximized flexibility to avoid counter-productive bureaucracy.

Thank you for your attention to these priorities as you develop *WRRDA 2013* legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rahall:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of Water Resources Development Act reauthorization legislation.

As your committee marks up H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA 2013)* the County of Santa Barbara requests your attention to the following priorities:

- Thank you for including Section 124 to direct that the Army Corps' Vegetation Management Policy be reviewed and revised to take into consideration regional characteristics and habitat for species of concern.
- Thank you for including Sections 107, 108 and 114 to establish a Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and increase opportunities for non-Federal interests to support or expedite projects. These innovative efforts could be important for completion of projects such as the Lower Mission Creek flood control project.
- The County opposes Section 301 and Section 303 and requests your opposition to any language that would deauthorize projects simply because they have not been funded. The focus should be on project merits, not funding stream. In the case of the Lower Mission Creek project, substantial work and financial investment have been made and the project should not be summarily deauthorized simply because more recent funding has not been available.
- Ensure that any National Levee Safety Program is focused on safety and maximized flexibility to avoid counter-productive bureaucracy.

Thank you for your attention to these priorities as you develop *WRRDA 2013* legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 18, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation that would reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

Thank you for cosponsoring Senator Mikulski's S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*. CCDBG has not been formally reauthorized since 1996, with its programs maintained since then on year-to-year basis via funding through the appropriations process. Adequate funding for child care is critical to the County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency. Without child care resources, those parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive, and staying at home to provide child care affects their ability to maintain their employment and self-sufficiency.

Researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment - \$4.00 to \$17.00/ per dollar spent - especially for children with risk factors. Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well documented for children who attended such programs. Additionally, the child care industry contributes significantly to the local economy both in their workforce, and the ability for parents to be gainfully employed. Therefore, providing children with a strong start can counteract the negative implications of disadvantaged environments.

Please work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite enactment of S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

SALUD CARBAJAL

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Fifth District, Vice Chair



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 18, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation that would reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

Thank you for cosponsoring Senator Mikulski's S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*. CCDBG has not been formally reauthorized since 1996, with its programs maintained since then on year-to-year basis via funding through the appropriations process. Adequate funding for child care is critical to the County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency. Without child care resources, those parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive, and staying at home to provide child care affects their ability to maintain their employment and self-sufficiency.

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Please work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite enactment of S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013*.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 30, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express their support for H.R. 3090, the *Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act*, which would establish a National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to improve the capacity of state and local adult protective services programs to respond effectively to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

California has the largest older adult population in the country and according to the most recent U.S. Census estimate, there are 57,356 adults over the age of 65 living in Santa Barbara County – 13 percent of the County's total population. With the increase in the elder population comes the possible increase in elder abuse related incidences. Elders have special circumstances - such as dependency, functional disability, minority status, age, and poor social networks - that make them more vulnerable to violence.

Though the State mandates certain entities to report elder abuse (custodians, licensed care facility staff, law enforcement, etc.) the number of incidences in the County is still believed to be underreported. In 2012, there were 1,709 reported cases of abuse of the elderly and disabled in Santa Barbara County and 2013 is on pace to exceed that total. The County District Attorney's Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Unit coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and local law enforcement agencies and resources to help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The County respectfully requests that H.R. 3090 or similar legislation receives quick approval from your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

JANET WOLF

Second District

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Third District

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Fifth District, Vice Chair



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105 East Anapamu Street

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 30, 2013

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express their support for H.R. 3090, the *Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act*, which would establish a National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to improve the capacity of state and local adult protective services programs to respond effectively to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

California has the largest older adult population in the country and according to the most recent U.S. Census estimate, there are 57,356 adults over the age of 65 living in Santa Barbara County – 13 percent of the County’s total population. With the increase in the elder population comes the possible increase in elder abuse related incidences. Elders have special circumstances - such as dependency, functional disability, minority status, age, and poor social networks - that make them more vulnerable to violence.

Though the State mandates certain entities to report elder abuse (custodians, licensed care facility staff, law enforcement, etc.) the number of incidences in the County is still believed to be underreported. In 2012, there were 1,709 reported cases of abuse of the elderly and disabled in Santa Barbara County and 2013 is on pace to exceed that total. The County District Attorney’s Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Unit coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and local law enforcement agencies and resources to help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The County respectfully requests that H.R. 3090 or similar legislation receives quick approval from your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 30, 2013

The Honorable Matthew Cartwright
U.S. House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express their support for H.R. 3090, the *Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act*, which would establish a National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to improve the capacity of state and local adult protective services programs to respond effectively to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults. Thank you for your introduction of this legislation.

California has the largest older adult population in the country and according to the most recent U.S. Census estimate, there are 57,356 adults over the age of 65 living in Santa Barbara County – 13 percent of the County's total population. With the increase in the elder population comes the possible increase in elder abuse related incidences. Elders have special circumstances - such as dependency, functional disability, minority status, age, and poor social networks - that make them more vulnerable to violence.

Though the State mandates certain entities to report elder abuse (custodians, licensed care facility staff, law enforcement, etc.) the number of incidences in the County is still believed to be underreported. In 2012, there were 1,709 reported cases of abuse of the elderly and disabled in Santa Barbara County and 2013 is on pace to exceed that total. The County District Attorney's Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Unit coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and local law enforcement agencies and resources to help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

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Second District

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 30, 2013

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express their support for H.R. 3090, the *Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act*, which would establish a National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to improve the capacity of state and local adult protective services programs to respond effectively to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults. The County respectfully requests that you co-sponsor H.R. 3090.

California has the largest older adult population in the country and according to the most recent U.S. Census estimate, there are 57,356 adults over the age of 65 living in Santa Barbara County – 13 percent of the County's total population. With the increase in the elder population comes the possible increase in elder abuse related incidences. Elders have special circumstances - such as dependency, functional disability, minority status, age, and poor social networks - that make them more vulnerable to violence.

Though the State mandates certain entities to report elder abuse (custodians, licensed care facility staff, law enforcement, etc.) the number of incidences in the County is still believed to be underreported. In 2012, there were 1,709 reported cases of abuse of the elderly and disabled in Santa Barbara County and 2013 is on pace to exceed that total. The County District Attorney's Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Unit coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and local law enforcement agencies and resources to help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration and please urge your colleagues that serve on the Education & Workforce Committee to approve H.R. 3090 or similar legislation that will provide further resources to local governments to respond effectively to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate their Board's support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who can not afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

Please support the reauthorization of the OAA and support efforts to maintain local control to coordinate OAA services for older Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

SALUD CARBAJAL

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Fifth District, Vice Chair



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the attached letters on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander of the Senate HELP Committee to reiterate the Board's support of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The HELP Committee is scheduled to mark up a draft OAA Reauthorization bill this week.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

Please support the reauthorization of the OAA and support efforts to maintain local control to coordinate OAA services for older Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

Attachments

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

JANET WOLF

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I have sent the attached letters on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander of the Senate HELP Committee to reiterate the Board's support of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The HELP Committee is scheduled to mark up a draft OAA Reauthorization bill this week.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

Please support the reauthorization of the OAA and support efforts to maintain local control to coordinate OAA services for older Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

Attachments

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate their Board's support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who can not afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

Please support the reauthorization of the OAA and support efforts to maintain local control to coordinate OAA services for older Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative