

# Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters

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Second District, Chair

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**PETER ADAM**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for Congressman Hastings' H.R. 4201, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act*.

H.R. 4201 would remove the so-called "inmate exception" that prevents individuals from being eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. The exception unfairly shifts the burden for the costs of otherwise-eligible inmates' health care to the County, and is contrary to the presumption of innocence in the American judicial system.

The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8th Amendment requires all government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. In Santa Barbara, as in most counties, providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of the jail's operating costs, placing substantial stress on scarce local resources. Please work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite action on H.R. 4201 or similar legislation that would remove the inmate exception and ensure that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the mandate to guarantee medical coverage for inmates.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Raymond Green  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for Congressman Hastings' H.R. 4201, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act*.

H.R. 4201 would remove the so-called "inmate exception" that prevents individuals from being eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. The exception unfairly shifts the burden for the costs of otherwise-eligible inmates' health care to the County, and is contrary to the presumption of innocence in the American judicial system.

The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8th Amendment requires all government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. In Santa Barbara, as in most counties, providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of the jail's operating costs, placing substantial stress on scarce local resources. Please work with your colleagues on the committee to expedite action on H.R. 4201 or similar legislation that would remove the inmate exception and ensure that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the mandate to guarantee medical coverage for inmates.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1106 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Levin:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for Congressman Hastings' H.R. 4201, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act*.

H.R. 4201 would remove the so-called "inmate exception" that prevents individuals from being eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. The exception unfairly shifts the burden for the costs of otherwise-eligible inmates' health care to the County, and is contrary to the presumption of innocence in the American judicial system.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Joseph Pitts, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for Congressman Hastings' H.R. 4201, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act*.

H.R. 4201 would remove the so-called "inmate exception" that prevents individuals from being eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. The exception unfairly shifts the burden for the costs of otherwise-eligible inmates' health care to the County, and is contrary to the presumption of innocence in the American judicial system.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Lois Capps  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

We have sent the enclosed letters to the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees, advocating the County of Santa Barbara's support for Congressman Hastings' H.R. 4201, the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act*.

Please consider cosponsoring H.R. 4201. The measure would remove the so-called "inmate exception" that prevents individuals from being eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. The exception unfairly shifts the burden for the costs of otherwise-eligible inmates' health care to the County, and is contrary to the presumption of innocence in the American judicial system.

The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8th Amendment requires all government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. In Santa Barbara, as in most counties, providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of the jail's operating costs, placing substantial stress on scarce local resources. Please urge your colleagues who serve on these committees to expedite action on H.R. 4201 or similar legislation that would remove the inmate exception and ensure that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the mandate to guarantee medical coverage for inmates.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx:

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

OAA enables Santa Barbara 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 cannot 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:

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

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

Last year, the Senate unanimously approved S. 192, the *Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act*. Please work with your colleagues on the subcommittee to expedite action on S. 192 or similar legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hinojosa:

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

OAA enables Santa Barbara 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 cannot 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.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 29, 2016

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

Dear Lois:

I have sent the attached letters on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Hinojosa of the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, reiterating the Board's support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

OAA enables 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 cannot afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

enclosures

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Kenneth Calvert, Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Calvert:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

The Department of the Interior has estimated that \$480 million dollars will be necessary to fully fund PILT in FY 2017. Current discretionary appropriations for the PILT program are set to expire on September 30, 2016. Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2017, these critical resources for nearly 1,900 counties will no longer be available to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions.

Thank you for your assistance extending the PILT program this year.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

The Department of the Interior has estimated that \$480 million dollars will be necessary to fully fund PILT in FY 2017. Current discretionary appropriations for the PILT program are set to expire on September 30, 2016. Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2017, these critical resources for nearly 1,900 counties will no longer be available to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions.

Thank you for your assistance extending the PILT program this year.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
SD-301 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madame Chair:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

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Thank you for your assistance extending the PILT program this year.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
SD-301 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

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Thank you for your assistance extending the PILT program this year.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 2051

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

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Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

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

Dear Lois:

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Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 26, 2016

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

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full mandatory funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2017.

Thank you for including language in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations Act that provided full PILT funding for this year. While the County supports legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding is again needed in this year's appropriations bill to ensure certainty for FY 2017. Your support for full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

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Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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