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July 17, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 349 (Lara) – Staffing Requirements for Dialysis Clinics - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez-Fletcher:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Senate Bill (SB) 349 introduced by Senator Lara. The Board of Supervisor's adopted a 2017 Legislative Platform built upon legislative principles that support the enhancement of services to the most vulnerable within a community. Additionally, the Legislative Platform also contains a *Health in Our Community* plank that notes support for clinic practices that prevent harmful health conditions.

By reducing the ratio of patients to nurses and other healthcare professionals at Chronic Dialysis Clinics statewide and implementing a specific transition period between patients using dialysis machines, SB 349 increases the likelihood of quality care for individuals with End Stage Renal Disease by reducing the risk of infections, cardiac related and other causes of death. In 2016, over 10,000 Californians died while on dialysis; that's 2.5% increase over the previous year. Eight other states have staffing ratios for Chronic Dialysis Clinics. Staffing ratios in these eight states are each unique and generally align with those proposed in SB 349.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Senator Ricardo Lara, Author
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Lisa Murawski, Consultant, Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors