

AGENDA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STANDING COMMITTEE – LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – 4th FLOOR HEARING ROOM
1115 TRUXTUN AVE.
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

All agenda item supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Administrative Office, 1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor, Bakersfield, 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following the posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item for an open session of any regular meeting that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available for review at the same location.

June 9, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click the URL to join: [Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 219 841 917 332

Passcode: 5TC9bw6b

Or join by Phone:

+1 831-296-3421

Phone conference ID: 407 001 615#

Remote participation options are provided as a convenience only. In the event of technical difficulties, the meeting will continue in person uninterrupted

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address Committee Members on any matter not on this agenda, but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee Members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. Also, the Committee may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION**

4. Update on Federal issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary – RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

5. Update on State issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary – RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

6. Direction for new committee business at future meetings – DISCUSS; PROVIDE DIRECTION

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Americans with Disabilities Act (Government Code Section 54954.2)

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DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 84308, members of the Board of Supervisors are disqualified and not able to participate in any agenda item involving contracts (other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts), franchises, discretionary land use permits and other entitlements if the Board member received more than \$250 in campaign contributions from the applicant or contractor, an agent of the applicant or contractor, or any financially interested participant who actively supports or opposes the County's decision on the agenda item since January 1, 2023. Members of the Board of Supervisors who have received, and applicants, contractors or their agents who have made, campaign contributions totaling more than \$250 to a Board member since January 1, 2023, are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the subject proceeding. Disclosures must include the amount of the campaign contribution and identify the recipient Board member and may be made either in writing to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors prior to the subject hearing or by verbal disclosure at the time of the hearing.



MEMORANDUM

To: Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee
 Supervisor Phillip Peters, District 1
 Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3

From: Ben Goldeen, Federal Advocacy Director, Townsend Public Affairs
 Spencer Street, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs
 Cori Takkinen, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs
 Christopher Townsend, President, Townsend Public Affairs

Date: June 9, 2025

Subject: Legislative Program Committee Federal Affairs Report

The month of May saw significant progress on budget reconciliation and President Donald Trump released additional details on his FY26 budget request, officially initiating the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process. June will see action on the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act and progress on appropriations and preliminary steps on the reauthorization of surface transportation programs. This report provides a detailed analysis of the budget reconciliation bill and previews upcoming legislative action, while summarizing official positions taken on federal legislation by the Board of Supervisors.

H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act

On May 22, the US House of Representatives passed [H.R. 1](#) The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), their contribution to the reconciliation package aimed at delivering key components of President Donald Trump's legislative agenda. The bill now heads to the Senate where it is expected to undergo additional changes in the coming weeks. The bill makes permanent the lower income tax rates from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), provides \$150 billion in additional defense and border funding, restarts construction of the border wall, and raises the debt limit by \$4 trillion.

It also includes a number of policies the President promised to deliver on the campaign trail that will [expire](#) by the end of his presidency, including a standard deduction increase for individuals (with an enhancement for seniors), a child tax credit supplement, no tax on tips and overtime, and a new deduction on interest for car loans. It also increases the State and Local Tax Deduction limit (SALT Cap) to \$40,000, with an income limit of \$500k.

To offset the cost of these policies, the OBBBA incorporates longer-standing Republican priorities, including welfare program reforms affecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, along with student loan repayment reforms, the elimination of clean energy tax credits, pension reforms for federal employees, and reductions in funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and other financial regulators.

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) [estimate](#) showed the tax changes would increase the deficit by a net \$3.8 trillion by 2034. New estimates on the

Medicaid reforms vary slightly, but tend to estimate 10-15 million people losing Medicaid coverage (3.4 million in California under the expansion population) with 7.6 million being unable to obtain other health insurance. New state cost-share requirements for SNAP could see a more than \$600 million increase in California's cost for the program, likely necessitating state reforms.

California Specific Impacts of the Legislation

OBBBA proposes sweeping changes to federal tax policy, healthcare funding, and regulatory authority, with potentially significant consequences for California. As one of the largest and most populous states, California could be disproportionately impacted by reductions in federal support for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and other safety net programs, along with new limitations on the state's ability to regulate environmental and technological standards. These potential federal shifts come as Governor Newsom's 2025–26 May Revision outlines a \$321.9 billion budget proposal, including \$226.4 billion from the General Fund and projected reserves of \$15.7 billion. The May Revision will serve as the framework for final budget negotiations, as the state navigates economic uncertainty while working to preserve essential public services.

Outlined below are the potential impacts of the proposed OBBBA federal legislation on California's CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs.

CalFresh

The May Revision allocates approximately \$4.5 billion for CalFresh, California's state-administered version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This funding, however, represents only a portion of the total support provided, as over \$13 billion in direct benefits are entirely funded by the federal government. OBBBA proposes a reduction in the federal government's contribution to direct benefits to 95%, with an improper payment penalty structure that could further reduce the federal government's contribution to direct benefits to 75% based on the improper payment rate. In 2023, the state [reported](#) a 13.4% improper payment rate, under OBBBA, the federal government's share would decrease to the 75% minimum contribution, leaving the state with a \$3.3 billion funding gap year over year.

Importantly, the May Revision does not account for potential impacts from these significant federal policy changes, such as the proposed OBBBA. Should this legislation restructure or reduce the federal contribution to key safety-net programs, including SNAP and potentially Medi-Cal, the resulting fiscal pressure on the state could be substantial.

If the state were required to offset the loss of federal funding, the administration and Legislature may be compelled to explore difficult options, including limiting program eligibility, reducing benefit levels, or implementing other cost-containment strategies. Given the state's current structural budget shortfall and the broader economic uncertainty reflected in the May Revision, assuming billions in additional costs would be highly challenging without either deep programmatic reductions or new revenue sources. These circumstances highlight the importance of closely monitoring federal developments and maintaining a proactive approach to state fiscal planning.

Medicaid

If signed into law, OBBBA threatens to eliminate Medi-Cal coverage for as many as [3.4 million](#) Californians, resulting in the loss of more than \$30 billion in federal funding, according to the Governor's Office. It would also undermine the financing mechanisms that the state relies on to sustain its Medi-Cal program and broader safety net. Additionally, OBBBA would impose penalties on states like California that choose to use state funds to offer non-emergency medical services to undocumented individuals. The state also stands to lose more than \$30 billion in federal funding, threatening the financial stability of hospitals, clinics, and public health services.

Key provisions in OBBBA would fundamentally alter how Medicaid operates in states such as California, as it proposes the introduction of strict work requirements for certain beneficiaries, which could result in large-scale disenrollments among low-income individuals who face barriers to consistent employment.

According to a recent [state report](#), California could be penalized at least \$4.4 billion in federal funding for using state dollars and the state's Medi-Cal systems to provide non-emergency coverage to undocumented residents.

Similar to most states, California depends on provider taxes collected from healthcare providers and managed care organizations (MCOs) to draw down federal matching funds for Medi-Cal. OBBBA would freeze existing provider taxes and prohibit states from implementing new ones. This could effectively cut off a key financing mechanism, jeopardizing billions in federal support critical to sustaining the state's Medicaid program.

Additionally, OBBBA would place new limits on the federal funding hospitals can receive through supplemental payment programs. This cap could reduce critical revenue streams for both public and private hospitals in California, potentially affecting their ability to maintain services, staffing, and community care.

Finally, OBBBA would require Medicaid beneficiaries, with incomes slightly above the poverty level, to pay up to \$35 for each healthcare service. This cost-sharing mandate would introduce a new financial hurdle for low-income individuals seeking care. Currently, California does not impose co-payments for Medi-Cal services, making this a significant policy shift, and potential financial burden for Californians.

In conclusion, the posed cuts to Medicaid, if OBBBA is signed into law, could result in decreased reimbursement rates for healthcare providers, increased out-of-pocket expenses for beneficiaries, and reduced access to essential medical services. Such impacts could disproportionately affect vulnerable populations in California, particularly seniors and individuals with disabilities who rely heavily on consistent and affordable care.

Discussion of Federal Legislation in Development

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Reauthorization

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is crucial for counties as it provides the largest federal funding source for workforce development, helping job seekers and employers

overcome challenges. It establishes one-stop centers for job search assistance, training, and career services, with counties involved in 90% of the local workforce development boards. Proposals under discussion from last year would provide funds for upskilling workers, provide \$5,000 individual training accounts for displaced workers, and ensure training programs meet employer demands while offering flexibility to address local needs.

Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

President Trump has submitted components of his Fiscal Year 2026 budget request to Congress officially initiating the annual appropriations process for FY26. Fiscal Year 2025 government funding expires on October 1, 2025 and Congress will work to enact funding bills prior to that deadline. Committee work will take place throughout June and into early July, with votes in the House scheduled for

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Congress will aim to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs in 2026. A hearing was held in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 2, 2025 with Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy to begin the process of reauthorizing federal highway and road programs. The committees of jurisdiction aim to have legislative text ready for consideration by the end of 2025, ahead of the September 30, 2026 expiration of current authorities.

National Defense Authorization Act

The NDAA has been enacted each year for six decades. The bill is developed in the spring, committee markup is in the late spring or early summer, consideration by the full House and Senate takes place over the summer, and conference negotiations and final passage take place in the fall.

Farm Bill

Legislation authorizing and funding federal agriculture, food, nutrition, and rural development programs will need to be approved before September 30, 2025.

Older Americans Act

The OAA provides funding for county programs supporting older adults including the Family Caregiver Support Program and In-Home Supportive Services, among other aging and adult services. A reauthorization of the Act is under discussion.

County Federal Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
H.R. 2499	To Codify Executive Order 14248	Rep. Abraham Hamadeh	Support	The bill would codify Executive Order 14248 entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections," giving it the full effect of law.	Introduced and referred to the Committees on House Administration, Judiciary, and Ways and Means. 3/31/2025
S. 1240	Defending America's Future Elections Act	Sen. Alex Padilla	Oppose	S. 1240 seeks to repeal Executive Order 14248, entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections", and prohibit federal coordination and use of certain data sources to verify voter eligibility.	Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration 4/1/2025
H.R. 22/S. 128	SAVE Act	Rep. Chip Roy/Sen. Mike Lee	Support	A bill to require documentary proof of US citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.	H.R. 22 Received in the Senate 4/10/2025 House. On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 220 - 208 (Roll no. 102) 4/10/2025
H.R. 471	Fix Our Forests Act	Rep. Bruce Westerman	Support	This bill establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing	Hearing Held, Senate Agriculture Committee 3/6/2025 Received in the Senate 1/28/2025 House, passed 279-141 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
				forest management projects and other activities.	

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Chris Parlier District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Chip Roy
U.S. House of Representatives
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 22 – Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Roy,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. We recognize the intent of this legislation to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of federal elections.

Requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections is a policy that, if implemented effectively, could help ensure that voter rolls accurately reflect the eligibility requirements established by law. By amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the bill seeks to address concerns regarding election security in a manner consistent with the rule of law.

Kern County remains committed to administering elections that are fair, secure, and transparent. We believe measures that enhance the verification of voter eligibility can contribute positively to maintaining trust in the electoral process.

We appreciate your work on this issue and respectfully encourage continued efforts to uphold election integrity through clear and lawful processes. Please consider this letter an expression of support from the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the goals outlined in H.R. 22.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David Couch, Vice Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Abraham J. Hamadeh
U.S. House of Representatives
172 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 2499 – To codify Executive Order 14248 - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Hamadeh,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2499, which seeks to codify Executive Order 14248 entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections". We recognize the intent of this legislation to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of federal elections.

Requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections is a policy that, if implemented effectively, could help ensure that voter rolls accurately reflect the eligibility requirements established by law. The bill seeks to address concerns regarding election security in a manner consistent with the rule of law.

Kern County remains committed to administering elections that are fair, secure, and transparent. We believe measures that enhance the verification of voter eligibility can contribute positively to maintaining trust in the electoral process.

We appreciate your work on this issue and respectfully encourage continued efforts to uphold election integrity through clear and lawful processes. Please consider this letter an expression of support from the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the goals outlined in H.R. 2499.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David Couch, Vice Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee
U.S. Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 128 – Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lee,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for S. 128, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. We recognize the intent of this legislation to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of federal elections.

Requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections is a policy that, if implemented effectively, could help ensure that voter rolls accurately reflect the eligibility requirements established by law. By amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the bill seeks to address concerns regarding election security in a manner consistent with the rule of law.

Kern County remains committed to administering elections that are fair, secure, and transparent. We believe measures that enhance the verification of voter eligibility can contribute positively to maintaining trust in the electoral process.

We appreciate your work on this issue and respectfully encourage continued efforts to uphold election integrity through clear and lawful processes. Please consider this letter an expression of support from the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the goals outlined in S. 128.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature, likely of David Couch, is written over a white background.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 1240, Defending America's Future Elections Act - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our opposition to S. 1240, the Defending America's Future Elections Act. While we recognize and support the constitutional role of Congress and the states in determining the time, place, and manner of federal elections, we are concerned that this bill would significantly limit important tools for ensuring the integrity of our electoral system.

S. 1240 seeks to repeal Executive Order 14248, entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections", and prohibit federal coordination and use of certain data sources to verify voter eligibility. In doing so, the legislation would eliminate mechanisms intended to support state-level efforts to maintain accurate voter rolls and prevent ineligible participation in federal elections.

Kern County strongly supports measures that bolster public confidence in the electoral process by ensuring that only eligible citizens are permitted to vote. As stated in our support for H.R. 22, we believe verifying voter eligibility, including citizenship status, is essential to maintaining the integrity of elections and the trust of the public. Restricting the ability of federal and state entities to share relevant data and enforce eligibility standards undermines those objectives.

Election security and voter confidence are not partisan issues; they are foundational to a functioning democracy. While we respect the principles outlined in the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act, we are concerned that S. 1240 would limit the evolution of election integrity measures in response to emerging challenges.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully opposes S. 1240 and encourages Congress to consider legislation that strengthens, rather than restricts, our collective ability to protect the legitimacy of federal elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Couch', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

MEMORANDUM

To: Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee
Supervisor Philip Peters, District 1
Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3

From: Paul Yoder, Partner, SYASL
Dylan Elliott, Advocate, SYASL

Date: June 2, 2025

Subject: Legislative Program Committee State Affairs Report

Proposed State Legislation

[Meadow's Field Airport – SB 661 \(Hurtado\)](#)

SB 661 would, instead of directing sales tax revenue on jet fuel sales to the State's General Fund, would redirect revenue to the Aeronautics Account for airport and aviation purposes, bringing California into federal compliance and providing a financial windfall for select airports, described below. This bill proposes to allocate the redirected funding to specific types of airports based on their size and passenger boarding numbers, referred to as enplanements. The funds would be allocated for airports and aviation-related purposes. The formula contained in the bill would be advantageous to Meadow's Field in Bakersfield. As this is being written, SB 661 is still awaiting a positive floor vote in the Senate, which must occur by June 9 to avoid becoming a two-year bill.

[SB 222 \(Wiener\): Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act](#)

This bill has been sidelined at least for now. It fell just one vote shy in the Senate Judiciary Committee; however, reconsideration was granted so the author could be back in 2026.

[AB 303 \(Addis\): Battery Energy Safety & Accountability Act](#)

This bill is technically a two-year bill, but – as currently written – seems to face a very uphill climb in 2026 if the author decides to try again. The bill to watch now is SB 283 (Laird), which would establish the Clean Energy Safety Act of 2025 and requires various provisions to address fire safety standards for energy storage systems.

[AB 283 \(Haney\): In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act](#)

AB 283 has moved out of the Assembly with even a couple of republican votes on the floor. AB 283 would expand the definition of "public employer," to include an employer who is subject to the In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act, which the bill would create. Additionally, it would establish a method for resolving disputes regarding wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment between the state and recognized employee organizations representing individual providers.

[Groundwater Legislation](#)

AB 1413 (Papan) and AB 1466 (Hart) are still the two bills to watch in this policy area. Both bills are awaiting floor votes in the Assembly. As mentioned above, successful floor votes must occur by this Friday, June 6, or the bills become two-year bills eligible to be taken up again January of next year. A broad coalition of interests,

including Western Growers and the California Chamber of Commerce, continue to raise concerns with the bills, especially AB 1413.

[Wildfire Insurance](#)

This issue continues to languish legislatively. As you may have seen, State Farm has been approved to raise home insurance rates in California by 17%. This increase, approved by California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, will take effect upon policy renewals on or after June 1, 2025. State Farm initially requested a 22% emergency rate hike.

Budget Related Matters

[Proposition 36 Implementation Funding](#)

The Governor seems unwilling to provide funding the counties in the 2025-26 State Budget to implement Proposition 36.

[VOCA Support for Ongoing State Funding](#)

As stated in our last report, the State's worsening fiscal picture could impact its ability to provide the significant backfill provided for the 2024-25 year; however, we do believe that backfilling VOCA is high on the list of priorities all four legislative caucuses entering the home stretch to have adopted state budget by June 15.

[Housing Element Update](#)

In our last report we noted that, "SYASL has worked extensively with county staff in an effort to have the State sign off on the County's most recent proposed Housing Element. We are hopeful that a resolution will occur soon." This is in fact what transpired. SYASL is happy for the County and proud of how it was able to help.

[Oil Production and Refining](#)

Last week, the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee held an oversight hearing regarding California's transportation fuels market. What is increasingly clear is that multiple refinery closures have induced the Newsom Administration and members of the legislative democratic caucuses to – at least to some degree – begin to rethink certain policies pursued as part of the special legislative session last fall. One of the slides during presentations to this committee stated, "Stabilize California crude oil **production** (emphasis added) and distribution to supply refineries while honoring federal and state law and transition strategy." More to follow soon on this possibly.

County Legislative Positions

[Establishing a Board Appointed Registrar of Voters: SB 858](#)

The County's sponsored proposal is SB 858, which is already through the Senate and expected to be heard in the Assembly late June / early July.

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April 16, 2025

The Honorable Alex lee
Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 346 (Nguyen), Improving access to paramedical services for IHSS clients – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Lee,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 346 (Nguyen), which streamlines the approval process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients to access paramedical services, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive timely and essential care.

California's senior population is rapidly growing. By 2030, adults aged 65 and older will comprise 25% of the state's population, or approximately 8.6 million Californians. The IHSS program plays a vital role in helping this population age safely and independently at home, a central goal of the state's Master Plan for Aging.

Currently, nearly 730,000 IHSS providers serve more than 800,000 clients statewide, delivering critical support, including paramedical services such as medication administration, wound care, and injections. However, unnecessary administrative barriers are delaying access to these services.

Under current law, any licensed healthcare professional can sign the initial SOC 873 healthcare certification form needed to qualify for IHSS. However, only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, and dentists are allowed to sign the SOC 321 form required to authorize paramedical services. This restriction often leads to significant delays in service, particularly when clients cannot easily access those specific healthcare providers—an issue worsened by overburdened health systems.

AB 346 provides a common-sense solution: it allows the same licensed health care professionals who can sign the initial IHSS health care certification form to also sign the paramedical authorization form. The bill also permits nurses and nurse practitioners, working under the direction of a licensed provider, to complete the forms. This alignment will:

- Reduce delays in accessing essential care
- Simplify the process for providers and clients alike
- Improve client health outcomes by ensuring continuity and speed of care
- Support counties in delivering IHSS services more efficiently

In Kern County, we currently serve an average of 16,834 IHSS clients, with 1,949 receiving paramedical services. Our providers deliver over 17,000 hours of paramedical services per month. Delays caused by current form requirements directly impact our clients' well-being and place an added burden on staff and families trying to navigate the system.

The passage of AB 346 will reduce administrative bottlenecks, cut down on approval time, and expand access to paramedical services for those who need them most.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this measure and respectfully requests that you vote **YES on AB 346**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Human Services
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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Bakersfield, California 93301
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April 16, 2025

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
Chair, Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 5510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 871 (Stefani), Strengthening protections against elder financial abuse – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Valencia,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 871 (Stefani), which enhances mandatory training for financial institution employees on how to report suspected elder financial abuse.

California is home to nearly 6 million seniors, more than any other state. By 2030, adults aged 65 and older are expected to make up 25% of the population, or 8.6 million Californians. Each year, countless seniors fall victim to telephone and internet-based fraud and financial scams—crimes that are not only devastating but often go unreported and unresolved.

In Kern County alone, we handle over 7,100 Adult Protective Services (APS) cases annually, with nearly 43% involving suspected financial abuse. These numbers reflect a disturbing trend that requires stronger tools and better coordination between financial institutions and enforcement agencies.

The FBI reported over \$3 billion in losses from elder fraud scams in 2023—a figure that only includes reported cases. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) play vital roles in investigating and stopping these crimes. However, too often, financial institutions only report to local police or APS, missing the opportunity to engage federal resources that can assist in recovery and prosecution.

AB 871 addresses this gap by requiring financial institutions to provide annual training that includes how to report suspected elder financial abuse not only to local APS and law enforcement, but also to IC3 and the FTC. This broader reporting framework will:

- Improve coordination across local and federal agencies
- Clarify the reporting process for financial institutions
- Increase the likelihood of recovering stolen funds, especially when reports are made within the first 24 - 48 hours
- Help bring more perpetrators to justice

By enhancing training and expanding reporting channels, AB 871 empowers financial institutions to act swiftly and effectively in protecting vulnerable seniors.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this measure and respectfully requests that you vote **YES on AB 871** to protect California's seniors from financial exploitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier..... District 2
Jeff Flores..... District 3
David Couch..... District 4
Leticia Perez..... District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1116 (Berman), Digital voter signatures – OPPOSE

Dear Speaker Rivas,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to AB 1116 (Berman), which would expand the eligibility criteria for online voter registration in California.

While Kern County is committed to broad and equitable access to the ballot, we believe such access must be carefully balanced with safeguards that ensure voter eligibility and maintain public confidence in the electoral system. AB 1116, by allowing individuals to register to vote online without a California driver's license or state identification card and instead relying solely on the last four digits of a Social Security Number, presents concerns regarding the verification and authenticity of voter identity.

As outlined in our support for federal legislation H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, we believe that documentary proof of U.S. citizenship and verifiable identity are essential components of a secure voter registration system and should be the cornerstone in voter identification in both federal and state elections. While we recognize that AB 1116 includes measures such as signature uploads and partial Social Security Number verification, these do not provide the same level of identity authentication as government-issued identification.

We are also concerned about the administrative burden and added costs this bill may place on county elections offices. The new processes for signature uploads and additional verification protocols could increase operational complexity and present a potential vulnerability without adequate safeguards to prevent ineligible registration. Likewise, the Secretary of State expects one-time costs of approximately \$1 million dollars to the State General Fund to modify the voter registration system and database that would enable digital signature uploads and necessary security upgrades. Since there is currently no option on the Secretary of State's website for the public to upload an item, the agency anticipates ongoing costs of an unknown amount for software and staff workload to validate signatures and screen for malicious files.

Kern County remains fully committed to inclusive civic participation and ensuring every eligible citizen has the opportunity to vote. However, we respectfully oppose AB 1116 because it weakens essential verification standards and may undermine the very integrity of our voter registration system that builds voter trust.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter. We urge the Legislature to pursue voter access policies that also preserve the security, accuracy, and credibility of our elections and respectfully request that the Assembly hold **AB 1116 on the Floor and prevent the bill from advancing to the Senate.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Couch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, CA State Assembly
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier..... District 2
Jeff Flores..... District 3
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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1383 (McKinnor), Increased public pension formulas and cost-sharing - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our serious concerns with AB 1383 (McKinnor) which proposes significant changes to public pension formulas and cost-sharing arrangements under the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) and the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA).

At a time when counties across California are grappling with economic uncertainty, AB 1383 would impose increased and unsustainable pension costs on local governments already under severe fiscal pressure. The bill's authorization of more generous retirement formulas for safety members, combined with expanded responsibility for employers to cover portions of employee contributions, represents a significant financial burden that our county simply cannot absorb. These proposed changes would cost Kern *at least \$13 million in increased annual costs*.

While supporters of the bill may argue that the proposed changes are not mandatory and are subject to collective bargaining, the reality is that merely introducing more generous pension formulas sets a new benchmark, one that unions will inevitably seek in negotiations. These discussions often take place in an environment where counties have limited leverage, especially when under pressure to attract or retain public safety personnel, thereby compounding long-term fiscal risk.

This legislation also comes at a time when the broader economy is facing destabilizing pressures from international tariffs, supply chain volatility, and ongoing inflationary trends. Simultaneously, California is facing a projected state budget deficit, raising the likelihood of reductions in local funding, while potential cuts at the federal level further endanger the essential programs and services counties are responsible for delivering.

Counties are on the front lines, and we deliver core services including public safety, public health, and social services. Any increase in pension liabilities limits our ability to recruit and retain staff, maintain fiscal stability, and respond flexibly to future economic disruptions or emergencies. While

we recognize the importance of fair and sustainable retirement benefits, this bill moves in the opposite direction of needed reform by expanding obligations without a clear path for funding them.

The current PEPRA framework strikes a necessary balance between sustainability and fairness. AB 1383 would undermine those reforms and expose counties like ours to long-term financial risks we are ill-equipped to manage in the current economic climate.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully opposes AB 1383 and urges you to vote NO on this measure due to the financial implications it will have on all jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Items Received During Public Comment

Bakersfield California June 7, 2025



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KERN COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Reasons **NOT** to Support the bill, H.R. 1, "The Big Ugly Bill."

1) This Bill puts us Three Trillion in debt and cuts Medicaid and SNAP Benefits, and these cuts begin in 2026 so the MAGA Republicans can blame Democrats for the Cuts. Valadao's District has 67% of his constituents on Medicaid (called Medi-CAL in California) and Fong's District has 33% of his constituents on Medi-CAL. This will create havoc for the budget of our local hospitals who have patients on Medi-CAL and with the demise of the Medicaid budget will create exponential problems for those who depend on Medicare funds.

2) Hidden in the bill under Section 70302 it severely restricts federal courts authority to hold government officials in contempt if they violate judicial orders. This would ensure that Trump and his minions would become King Trump and his Minion Court. The only thing we have right now to hold Trump accountable is the courts and they are struggling at best because Trump just ignores the Courts and the Supreme Court's actions and disavows the constitution which he swore to follow, even though he did so without his hand on the bible.

3) Also, hidden in the bill found within Section 43201(c) of the House reconciliation bill — would impose a 10-year ban on the enforcement of all state and local laws that regulate artificial intelligence (AI), including rules for AI's use in political campaigns and elections.

This reconciliation bill should be concerned about the budget and there is nothing in this bill that shows any concern about paying our bills and sticking with a budget. Trump just wants to help the super rich on the backs of the middle class and vulnerable class.

4) Also, this bill repeals and rescinds programs established under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 for incentives for clean air when we who live in Bakersfield have some of the worst air pollution in the Country which is one of the leading reasons for health issues for people who live in the Bakersfield Area.

Bakersfield has the worst air in the U.S.,

<https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/bakersfield-ranks-no-1-in-cities-that-have-the-worst-air-pollution-in-the-nation-study-says/>. "The World Health Organization recommends that people shouldn't be exposed to PM2.5 pollution levels that exceed 5 µg/m3."

According to the study, the entire region failed to meet metrics set by the Clean Air Act, a plan to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, most of the time for the last 25 years. The World

Health Organization [recommends](#) that people shouldn't be exposed to PM2.5 pollution levels that exceed 5 µg/m³. PM2.5 particles are invisible to the naked eye but are small enough to travel into someone's bloodstream and lungs, which could affect their health. " This bill repeals all of the clean air programs established under the Inflation REduction Act of 2022.

See the information provided by [CONGRESS.GOV](https://www.congress.gov) for information on Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1>

Subtitle B--Environment

Part 1--Repeals and Rescissions

This part repeals certain programs established under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and rescinds certain funds provided under the act.

(Sec. 42101) This section repeals a program under which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides (1) grants and rebates to replace certain medium-duty vehicles (e.g., school buses) and heavy-duty vehicles (e.g., garbage trucks) with zero-emission vehicles, and (2) awards to replace such vehicles in communities located in areas designated as nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act (e.g., areas that do not meet national air quality standards).

(Sec. 42102) This section repeals a program under which the EPA provides incentives to reduce air pollution at certain ports. Under the program, the EPA awards rebates and grants to port authorities and other eligible entities to (1) purchase or install equipment and technology to reduce pollution at ports, (2) conduct any relevant planning or permitting in connection with those purchases, and (3) develop climate action plans. The program also provides additional funding for rebates and grants for carrying out such activities in ports located in areas designated as nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act.

(Sec. 42103) This section repeals the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which provides financial and technical assistance to states and other eligible recipients to help enable low-income and disadvantaged communities carry out activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Sec. 42104) This section repeals an EPA program that gives grants, rebates, and loans under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to identify and reduce diesel emissions resulting from goods movement (e.g., distribution of raw materials and consumer products) facilities as well as vehicles servicing those facilities in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

(Sec. 42105) This section repeals funding for a variety of programs that provide incentives to monitor and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, including funding for grants and other activities to

- deploy, integrate, support, and maintain stations, technology, and other methods to monitor air toxins;
- expand the national ambient air quality monitoring network with new multi-pollutant monitoring stations;
- replace, repair, operate, and maintain existing monitors;
- deploy, integrate, and operate air quality sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
- address emissions from wood heaters;
- monitor emissions of methane;
- conduct research and development related to the prevention and control of air pollution; and
- encourage states to adopt and implement greenhouse gas and zero-emission standards for mobile sources.

(Sec. 42106) This section rescinds specified funds for grants and other activities to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants at schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Further, it rescinds funding for technical assistance to schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities to (1) address environmental issues; (2) develop school environmental quality plans that include standards for school building, design, construction, and renovation; and (3) identify and mitigate ongoing air pollution hazards.

(Sec. 42107) This section rescinds funding for a low emissions electricity program that provides education, technical assistance, and outreach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that result from domestic electricity generation and use.

(Sec. 42108) This section rescinds funding provided under the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard Program for

- the development and establishment of tests and protocols regarding the environmental and public health effects of a fuel or fuel additive;
- the collection and analysis of data to update applicable regulations, guidance, and procedures for determining the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from a fuel over the fuel's life cycle (e.g., production, processing, transport);
- the review, analysis, and evaluation of the impacts of all transportation fuels on the public as well as on low-income and disadvantaged communities; and
- supporting investments in advanced biofuels.

(Sec. 42109) This section rescinds funding to implement the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020, which directs the EPA to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFC). HFCs are greenhouse gases that are used in applications such as air conditioning, refrigeration, fire suppression, and aerosols.

(Sec. 42110) This section rescinds funding to update the EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System and any associated systems, necessary information technology infrastructure, or public access software tools to ensure access to compliance data and related information. Further, it also rescinds funding for grants to states, Indian tribes, and air pollution control agencies to update their systems to ensure communication with EPA's system. Finally, it rescinds funding to the EPA for updating inspection software or acquiring such software or devices on which to run the software.

(Sec. 42111) This section rescinds funding for the EPA to support (1) enhanced standardization and transparency of corporate climate action commitments and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (2) enhanced transparency regarding progress toward meeting such commitments and implementing such plans; and (3) progress toward meeting such commitments and implementing such plans.

(Sec. 42112) This section repeals the EPA's program that supports the development, enhanced standardization and transparency, and reporting criteria for environmental product declarations for construction materials and products. The declarations must include measurements of the greenhouse gases associated with all the relevant stages of production, use, and disposal of the construction materials and products.

(Sec. 42113) This section repeals the methane emissions reduction program under which the EPA provides financial incentives to encourage the reporting of greenhouse gases, the monitoring of methane, and the reduction of methane emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems.

(Sec. 42114) This section repeals the EPA's program that awards grants to states, air pollution control agencies, municipalities, and Indian tribes for developing and implementing plans to reduce greenhouse gas air pollution.

(Sec. 42115) This section rescinds certain funding relating to the EPA providing efficient, accurate, and timely reviews, including

- developing efficient, accurate, and timely reviews for permitting and approval processes through the hiring and training of personnel;
- developing programmatic documents;
- procuring technical or scientific services for reviews;
- developing environmental data or information systems;
- engaging stakeholders;
- purchasing new equipment for environmental analysis; and
- developing geographic information systems and other analysis tools, techniques, and guidance to improve agency transparency, accountability, and public engagement.

(Sec. 42116) This section repeals a program under which the EPA identifies and labels construction materials and products that have substantially lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions associated with all the relevant stages of production, use, and disposal of the materials and products.

(Sec. 42117) This section repeals funding to the EPA for environmental and climate justice block grants that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Part 2--Repeal of EPA Rules Relating to Greenhouse Gas and Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards

This part nullifies the final rule issued by the EPA titled *Revised 2023 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards* and published on December 30, 2021. The rule established more stringent

greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty vehicles (i.e., passenger cars and light trucks) for 2023 and later model years.

This part also nullifies the EPA's final rule titled *Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles* and published on April 18, 2024. The rule established and modified requirements for certain light-duty or medium-duty vehicles (e.g., cars, trucks, and sports utility vehicles that are under a certain weight), including requirements related to (1) emission standards, such as a greenhouse gas emission standard; (2) the durability of batteries for certain electric and hybrid vehicles; and (3) measuring fuel economy.

Part 3--Repeal of NHTSA Rules Relating to CAFE Standards

This part nullifies the final rule issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) titled *Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Model Years 2024-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks* and published on May 2, 2022. Under the rule, NHTSA increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger cars and light trucks for model years 2024-2026.

This part also nullifies NHTSA's final rule titled *Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for Model Years 2027 and Beyond and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030 and Beyond* and published on June 24, 2024. Under the rule, NHTSA finalized CAFE standards for passenger cars and light trucks that increase at a rate of 2% per year for passenger cars in model years 2027-2031, 0% per year for light trucks in model years 2027-2028, and 2% per year for light trucks in model years 2029-2031.

Submitted by

Rosann Wattonville, rwattonv@gmail.com, 1310 Suffolk St., Bakersfield, CA 93312