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To: CSAC NACo Steering Committee Representatives
NACo 2017 Legislative Conference California Attendees

From: Matt Cate, CSAC Executive Director
DeAnn Baker, CSAC Deputy Executive Director Legislative Affairs
Cara Martinson, CSAC Legislative Representative and Federal Affairs Manager

RE: NACo 2017 Proposed Interim Policy Resolutions Changes

Background. At the upcoming 2017 NACo Legislative Conference, NACo Steering Committees and the NACo Board of Directors will be considering a number of policy resolutions. Resolutions are used to guide NACo's federal lobbying efforts. Policy resolutions are generally single-purpose documents addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. Resolutions draw attention to a topic of current concern, clarify parts of the broadly worded platform, or set policy in areas not covered by the platform. These resolutions are valid until the next annual meeting, at which time they are reviewed by the appropriate Steering Committee and considered for inclusion in the platform. If they are not readopted or included in the platform, they expire. An overview of the NACo policy development process may be found on the [NACo website](#).

CSAC NACo Steering Committee Representatives. Supervisors and county staff that sit on NACo Steering Committees are CSAC representatives. While we strongly encourage you to review the subject matters of interest to you, we also want to bring to your attention resolutions sponsored by California counties and those proposed by other counties and organizations outside of California when CSAC has relevant existing policy. CSAC requests that Steering Committee Representatives express the CSAC positions during Steering Committee meetings and while voting on resolutions. CSAC staff will contact Steering Committee representatives in advance to ensure our positions are voiced at the various committee meetings and to answer any questions.

NACo 2017 Proposed Policy Resolutions. Resolution summaries are provided below along with CSAC staff comments and recommended positions. Page numbers where resolutions can be found in the resolutions packet are indicated after the resolution summary. We have only offered comments and recommended positions on the resolutions for which CSAC has policy. This year, CSAC is proposing one resolution related to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, number six. In addition, there are three other California county-sponsored resolutions, including numbers 11, 14 and 16.

Contact. Please contact Cara Martinson, CSAC Legislative Representative and Federal Affairs Manager at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org if you have any questions.

Community, Economic, and Workforce Development (CEWD) Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on CEWD: Tehama County Supervisor Kathlene Carlson; San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood.

- 1) **Proposed Resolution to Amend the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Legislation.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports an amendment to current law to allow metropolitan city ESG funds that fall below the threshold to be remitted to the urban county in which the municipality is located, rather than the state. Additionally, NACo supports legislation that allows metropolitan cities and urban counties to form consortia for purposes of receiving and administering ESG funds. *(Sponsor(s): County Executive and Board of Freeholders, Hudson County, N.J.) (pg.5).*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports efforts to increase federal funding that can be used by cities and counties to provide emergency assistance to homeless individuals. CSAC further supports regional collaborative efforts. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

- 2) **Proposed Resolution on FY 2018 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill: No less than \$3.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less than \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME); \$2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority. *(Sponsor: Renee Price, Commissioner, Orange County, N.C.) (p. 2)*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports funding for the CDBG program, which flows directly to “entitlement counties” with over 200,000 residents in the unincorporated area and through the California Department of Housing and Community Development for “non-entitlement counties. Combined with HOME funding and Homeless Housing Assistance funding, these appropriations would support local governments in California in their efforts to address our housing crisis by supporting housing for all income levels. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

- 3) **Proposed Resolution on Affordable Housing.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase the allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) by 50 percent and enact a permanent four percent credit rate floor for acquisition and bond-financed projects, allowing the program to create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States. Additionally, Congress is urged to provide enhancements and increased funding levels to all programs aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing. *(Sponsor: Patricia Ward, Director, Community Development and Housing Department, Tarrant County, 1 Texas.) (p. 3)*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports additional low income housing tax credits at the federal level, as well as additional state tax credits that allow California to maximize the federal tax credits we are able to access. The Governor’s 2017-18 Budget Proposal reported that there were 15 counties in California where not a single unit of affordable housing was built with LIHTC between 2011 and 2015 additional federal tax credits could increase the construction of affordable homes across the state. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

Energy, Environment and Land Use (EELU) Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on EELU: Butte County Supervisor Steve Lambert; Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley; Santa Barbara County Deputy Public Works Director Mark Schleich; Tuolumne County Supervisor Karl Rodefer.

- 4) Proposed Resolution Supporting Codification of EPA’s Integrated Planning Framework and Related Demonstration Projects.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the passage of legislation that codifies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 2012 Integrated Planning Framework, under which sewer districts (and other municipalities) can seek more efficient and affordable solutions to Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance (Sponsor : Todd Portune, President, Hamilton County, Ohio County Commissioners) (pg. 9).

CSAC Staff Comments: California counties have long faced issues complying with CWA standards through their stormwater permits for a variety of different issues. Counties provide a number of stormwater related services that protect people, property, and the economic vitality of their communities. These services include regional flood control infrastructure, local drainage systems in unincorporated communities, stormwater quality programs and treatment facilities, and groundwater recharge through capture and reuse. For a variety of reasons, program managers who provide these services do not have adequate funding to meet their long-term needs. CSAC has policy that supports flexibility and options to fund storm water programs to meet CWA requirements. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs (FPIA) Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on FPIA: Sonoma County Counsel Bruce Goldstein; San Diego County Director of Strategy & Intergovernmental Affairs Geoff Patnoe; Amador County Supervisor Richard Forster; Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon; Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, San Bernardino County Supervisor James Ramos.

- 5) Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to reauthorize the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA), which would waive federal income taxes on nominal recruitment and retention incentives provided by local jurisdictions to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. (Sponsor(s): Steven Singer, Fire and Rescue Chief, Powhatan County Fire and Rescue, Va.)(pg. 10)

CSAC Staff Comments: Counties, especially now, routinely utilize the services of volunteer emergency services and firefighting personnel. The benefits include county budget savings and an ability to respond to natural disasters in a manner that provides time-sensitive and adequate safety for our residents. Federal income tax waivers would serve as an incentive to volunteer for such positions, providing counties with further access to such personnel. **Staff recommendation: Support**

Health Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on Health: Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia; San Diego County HHS Director Nick Macchione; Santa Barbara County Supervisor Janet Wolf.

- 6) Proposed Resolution on the Importance of the ACA and Medicaid Expansion.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports maintaining the Medicaid program as a means tested entitlement and further supports provisions in current law that allow for expanded program eligibility and coverage standards. NACo urges Congress and the administration not to repeal the Medicaid expansion. Maintaining the current eligibility and coverage under the current program is a fundamental principle if Congress considers a concurrent, comprehensive and sustainable replacement bill. *(Sponsor(s): Toni Preckwinkle, President, Board of Commissioners Cook County, Ill.; Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County, Calif.; National Association of County Behavioral Health and Development Disability Directors (NACBHDD); National Association of County Human Services Administrators. (pg. 11).*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC is a sponsor of this resolution. It is consistent with CSAC's policy on the importance of maintaining the federal Medicaid program to improve health outcomes among California communities and fiscal stability in California counties. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

Human Services and Education Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on Human Services & Education: Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez; County Welfare Directors Deputy Executive Director Cathy Senderling; Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane; Madera County Supervisor Max Rodriguez; Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez; Madera County Social Services Director, Kelly Woodard.

- 7) Proposed Resolution on Supporting an Extension of the Federal IV-E Child Welfare Waivers.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislation to allow for an extension of the Federal IV-E Waiver in until September 30, 2024, unless comprehensive child welfare finance reform that reflects NACo's priorities is passed before that time. NACo is seeking an amendment to Sec. 1130 [42 U.S.C. 1320a-9], Authority to Approve Demonstration 12 Projects. Current law has a Termination of Authority clause reading, "In no event shall a demonstration 13 project under this section be conducted after September 30, 2019." *(Sponsor(s): Mark Waller, Commissioner, El Paso County, Colo.; Julie Krow, El Paso County Department of Human Services Executive Director, Colo.) (pg. 12).*

CSAC Staff Comments: This proposed policy is consistent with CSAC policy regarding the extension of the Federal Title IV-E child welfare waiver, on which California county child welfare services and probation departments rely to provide critical services to foster and probation youth. CSAC also generally supports increased flexibility in funding to provide child welfare services in ways that best meet local needs. CSAC policy is also consistent with the recommended NACo termination of the September 2019 sunset date. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

- 8) Proposed Resolution Supporting Two-Generation Efforts to Reduce Poverty.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the federal government to pursue policies that support and enable state and local jurisdictions to coordinate a two-generation approach to combat poverty. Federal efforts to reform public assistance must recognize that poverty is influenced by national economic factors that are not within the control of local or state governments, and that local and state governments are best positioned to help their citizens when federal programs are flexible and support all generations within a family. (Sponsor(s): Nancy Sharpe, Commissioner, Arapahoe County, Colo.) (pg. 13).

CSAC Staff Comments: This proposed policy is consistent with CSAC policy on providing counties with adequate and reliable resources and flexibility to help families address fundamental barriers to self-sufficiency. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

- 9) Proposed Resolution to Address and Stop Sexual Abuse in Families.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) strongly supports starting the dialog and pursuing types of education to assist counties, states, and the federal government in helping prevent child sexual abuse (CSA) in families. (Sponsor(s): Todd Devlin, Commissioner, Prairie County, Mont.) (pg. 14).

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports efforts to raise awareness of the toll of family violence on families and communities by supporting efforts that target family violence prevention, intervention, and treatment. Specific strategies for early intervention and success should be developed through cooperation between state and local governments, as well as community and private organizations addressing family violence issues. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

- 10) Proposed Resolution to Clarify and Expand NACo Policy on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).** In addition to existing National Association of Counties' (NACo) policy in the American Counties Platform, the following language shall also serve as NACo policy on SNAP. The proposed policy language will supplement and not supplant existing policy. It expressed opposition to block granted SNAP; support for streamlining SNAP with other programs where possible; the importance of SNAP to children; opposition to arbitrary and counterproductive work and participation requirements; support for additional flexibility for states and local governments in disqualification determinations; support for a gradual phase-out of benefits; flexibility to address unique challenges in rural areas; support for the use of technology in streamlining the program; and support for maintaining the integrity of the program. (Sponsor(s): SNAP Policy Working Group, Human Services and Education Steering Committee) (p. 14-16)

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports SNAP and the benefits it provides to vulnerable Californians. CSAC supports additional flexibility and streamlining of the program, and also opposes efforts to constrain the program into a block grant model, which would significantly reduce California's share of federal anti-hunger funding. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

- 11) Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend the Family First Prevention Services Act and Oppose Foster Care Block Grants.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the Family First Prevention Services Act so that it would not shift increased costs to states and counties by denying Title IV-E eligibility to children who would remain eligible for state or county-funded foster care and adoption assistance. In doing so, Congress should also

provide states and counties with sufficient flexibility to serve and protect abused and neglected children as done currently under some state laws and through federal waivers to promote more effective ways of serving children at no additional cost. NACo further urges that the bill's proscriptive provisions intended to reduce the use of congregate care be amended so that states and counties already proceeding with similar efforts may continue to do so. NACo opposes any congressional effort to block grant the financing of IV-E foster care. (Sponsor(s): Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association of California)(pg.17).

CSAC Staff Comments: This is sponsored by CSAC Affiliate, the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA). CSAC joined CWDA in opposing last year's version of the Families First Act because it would have severely constrained California foster care funding and prevented California from implementing the groundbreaking Continuum of Care Reform to reshape the group home system and secure family home placements for foster youth in our care. The proposed policy is consistent with CSAC policy supporting the Continuum of Care Reform as well as policy supporting increased funding flexibility to provide child welfare services in ways that best meet local needs. **Staff Recommendation: Support**

Justice and Public Safety (JPS) Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on JPS: Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover

- 12) Proposed Resolution on Improving Pre-Trial Inmate Process.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Department of Justice to continue efforts to advise state and municipal courts to acknowledge that the principles of due process and equal protection require that courts not employ bail and bond practices that cause indigent defendants to remain incarcerated even for a few days solely because they cannot afford to pay for their release. (Sponsor(s): Chris Rodgers, Commissioner, Douglas County, Neb.) (p. 19).

CSAC Staff Comments: This proposed resolution is consistent with CSAC's policy, which recognizes the need for a bail system that would validate the release of pre-sentenced persons using risk assessment tools as criteria for release. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

Public Lands Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on Public Lands: Mariposa County Supervisor Kevin Cann; Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris; Modoc County Supervisor Geri Byrne; Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless; Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley.

- 13) Proposed Resolution to Support Bureau of Land Management Foundation Act or Successor Legislation.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Foundation Act successor bill in the 115th Congress establishing a foundation which can help support the activities of the BLM. (Sponsor: Larry Schoen, Commissioner, Blaine County, Idaho) (pg. 22-23).

CSAC Staff Comments: California Counties recognize that the BLM along with the U.S. Forest Service do not possess adequate resources to effectively manage all of the lands under their control. This resolution would support legislation to establish a charitable foundation to

support activities of the BLM. The foundation would support programs and activities that would provide technical, educational and scientific support for the agency. A similar trust was established for the U.S. Forest Service which helps to support its mission. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

- 14) Proposed Resolution in Support of the Outdoor Recreation Act.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the enacted Outdoor REC Act and the effort to measure the outdoor recreation economy's contribution to the U.S. economy. NACo recommends that federal land management agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, work with the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to record the economic impact of outdoor recreation on public lands, and that these agencies invest in the maintenance of the land and water resources on which the outdoor recreation industry relies. (Sponsors: Stacy Corless, Supervisor, Mariposa County, Kevin Cann, Supervisor, Mariposa County, California) (pg. 24-25).

CSAC Staff Comments: Outdoor recreation and the tourism industry represent a significant portion of California's economy. This resolution would support the implementation of legislation that would conduct an analysis of the outdoor recreation economy that can be used to inform land management decisions and policies that could strengthen economies of rural counties. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

Telecommunication & Technology (TT) Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on TT: San Bernardino County Systems Analyst Samuel Brooks; Butte County Development Services Director Tim Snellings; Nevada County Chief Information Officer Stephen Monaghan.

- 15) Proposed Resolution to Clarify that NACo's Telecommunications and Technology Policies and Practices Apply to "Small Cell" and "DAS" Technologies and to Oppose Efforts to Preempt County Rights at the Federal or State Level.** The American County Platform and Resolutions shall be read to apply to all wireless technologies regardless of their size and where within a county those technologies are deployed, including rights-of-way. (Sponsors: Hans Riemer, Councilmember, Montgomery County, Md.; Roger Berliner, Council President, Montgomery County, Md.; Isiah (Ike) Leggett, County Executive, Montgomery County, Md.) (p. 26)
- 16) CSAC Staff Comments:** CSAC strongly opposes preemption of local police powers in the public right-of-way, the elimination of local control related to aesthetics, and the loss of authority to impose rents or other in-kind benefits in exchange for use of the public right-of-way by telecommunications companies, no matter the size of installation. This is an important clarification of NACo's existing policy. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

Transportation Steering Committee:

CSAC NACo Representatives on Transportation: Solano County Supervisor James Sperring; Contra Costa Public Works Director Julie Bueren; Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty; Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese; Santa Barbara County Public Works Director Scott McGolpin; Marin County Supervisor Damon Connolly; Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt.

- 17) Proposed Resolution in Support of a Funding Set Aside for the Maintenance of Local Roads in America within the Proposed \$1 Trillion Infrastructure Spending Bill.** NACo urges the president and Congress, through the proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure spending bill, to create a dedicated funding set aside of at least 25 percent of the total spending bill, allocated directly to local agencies, for the maintenance of local roads in America. *(Sponsors: Steve Lavaqino, Supervisor, Santa Barbara County, Calif.; Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, Santa Barbara County, Calif.; California State Association of Counties (CSAC.)) (p. 27)*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports a direct subvention of federal transportation funding for “fix-it-first” local street and road maintenance. The federal government funds transportation through the federal gas tax, which supports the Highway Trusts Fund, as well as through borrowing and diversions from other federal funding sources. Under current law, no federal funding for streets and roads purposes flows directly to local governments and basic road maintenance is not an eligible expense for the use of federal funds. California local governments benefit from federal transportation funding for roadways through the Highway Safety Improvement Program and the Highway Bridge Program (Caltrans grant program), the Active Transportation Program (California Transportation Commission grant program) and through funding allocated by Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. This resolution would create a new program whereby California’s deteriorating local roadways, which current face a ten-year \$73 billion unmet funding need for local bridges, roads and essential components, would be eligible for direct funding from the federal government. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

- 18) Proposed Resolution to Continue Funding of Essential Air Service (EAS) and the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP).** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to continue to fully fund the EAS program that provides dollars to airlines that serve small communities. NACo also urges Congress to continue guaranteed funding of the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) that helps small communities address air service and airfare issues. *(Sponsors: Suzanne Hart, Legislative & Policy Chair, Will County Board, Ill.; Don Moran, Will County Board, Ill.) (p. 30)*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports additional funding and greater flexibility for the Small Community Air Service Development Program. Several California airports (county-owned, as well as those with local city/county airport districts) have been awarded SCASDP funds in recent years. CSAC also supports increased funding for the Essential Air Services (EAS) program, which was created to guarantee that small communities that were served by certificated air carriers before deregulation maintain a minimal level of air service. Currently, there are four remaining communities in California that are eligible for the program. These are Imperial County (county owned), Crescent City (airport authority with county participation), Merced (city owned), and Visalia (city owned). **Staff Recommendation: Support.**

19) Proposed Resolution in Support of a Federal Infrastructure Package Which Contains Robust Dedicated Funding, Innovative Incentives for Private Investment and Promotion of County-Friendly Financing Tools such as Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds. NACo urges the President and Congress to support a \$1 trillion long-term infrastructure package to capitalize on sustainable, dedicated funding sources (Highway Trust Fund, Airport and Airway Trust Fund, Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, etc.); promote an environment for public-private partnerships where appropriate; and to promote the preservation of tax-free status for municipal bonds, among other instruments, to ensure America's infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of a growing economy and nation.) *(Sponsors: Peter McLaughlin, Commissioner, Hennepin County, Minn.; Cindy Bobbitt, Commissioner, Grant County, Okla.; Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner, Valley County, Idaho; Gary Fickes, Commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas; Richie Beyer, County Engineer, Elmore County, Ala.; Daniel Fedderly, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Highway Association; Fred Payne, Council Member, Greenville County, S.C.; Vance Stuehrenberg, Commissioner, Blue Earth County, Minn.; Bill Holen, Commissioner, Arapahoe County, Colo.; Donald Moran, Board Member, Will County, Ill.; Sharon Middleton, Council Member, Baltimore City, Md.; Jack Mariano, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.; Patrick Ferrell, Commissioner, Chatham County, Ga; Donald Moran, Board Member, Will County, Ill.; William Altimus, Parish Administrator, Bossier Parish, La.) (p. 31)*

CSAC Staff Comments: CSAC supports additional investments within these existing federal programs to address California's infrastructure needs across all areas, as well as county-friendly financing tools, such as tax-exempt municipal bonds. **Staff Recommendation: Support.**