



County Welfare Directors Association of California

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May 20, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S Capitol H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) strongly supports the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (HR 4213). The bill enables California's 58 county human services agencies to continue to respond to the unprecedented demands for health and human services in their communities.

Massive cuts to health and human services programs proposed by the Governor last week would place further stress on top of state reductions counties have experienced in recent years. Provisions in the American Jobs And Closing Tax Loopholes Act are critical to keeping California's fragile safety net from tearing even further.

CWDA wishes to highlight a few key provisions of particular importance to county agencies and the families they serve. They are:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund: CWDA strongly supports the bill's extension of the TANF Emergency Fund. In addition to providing a crucial backstop against deeper cuts to TANF assistance grants, California's counties are using these dollars aggressively to create subsidized jobs to help families become self-sufficient again.

As of May 5, California's counties created nearly 19,000 jobs using the Fund. Not only does the bill's funding of \$2.5 billion in FY 2011 give our non-profit and private sector employers assurances that this very successful initiative will continue, the Act would enable counties to continue to access funding enacted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for jobs filled by September 30. Extending these investments allows counties to continue to develop and maintain a robust subsidized jobs program without interruption.

Extending Enhanced Federal Funds for Medicaid and Foster Care: CWDA supports the provision extending the higher federal match for Medicaid and IV-E foster care through June 30, 2011. Continuing ARRA funding for these two programs will help the state and its counties to continue providing health services to low-income families and foster care payments to foster families.

Speaker Pelosi
May 20, 2010
Page 2 of 2

While we have not seen the legislative language, CWDA also reiterates its support of a provision clarifying that states are required to share the increased federal match for both Title IV-E and Medicaid with counties, commensurate with counties' percentage share of total non-federal costs in the state. This is especially important in California where counties finance 60 percent of the total non-federal share of IV-E foster care costs.

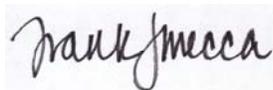
Summer Youth Employment: CWDA supports the \$1 billion investment in a summer youth employment program. The teenage unemployment rate of approximately 25 percent is alarmingly high. A federal investment providing jobs to youth not only helps them in the near-term, it serves to give them workplace experience useful for future employment opportunities.

Federal Poverty Level Guidelines: CWDA also supports the provision to freeze the federal poverty guidelines at 2009 levels for one year in order to prevent a cut in eligibility for federal means-tested programs such as Medicaid and SNAP.

CWDA urges the House to pass this measure expeditiously.

If your staff has any questions, please have them contact Tom Joseph, Director of CWDA's Washington office at 202.898.1444 or tj@wafed.com.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Mecca
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cc: California Congressional Delegation