



Enriching Lives

NEWS RELEASE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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SUPERVISORS HONOR ASSEMBLYMAN HECTOR DE LA TORRE

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today presented its Distinguished Legislative Service Award to Assemblyman Hector De La Torre for his “tenacious and effective” advocacy in behalf of the County’s hospitals and healthcare system.

De La Torre was cited for his work on the federal Medicaid waiver that was granted to California in 2005.

The Board award, last given in 2000, is presented whenever a member of the County’s legislative delegation demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the preservation or enhancement of county services.

The 2005 Medicaid waiver fundamentally alters the way billions of dollars flow to California’s public and private safety-net hospitals, including all of the hospitals that the County operates.

Because of the enormity of the proposed changes and the potential jeopardy to the County’s hospitals, De La Torre’s role as chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 and as a committed advocate for the County’s hospitals was critical, said Board Chair Gloria Molina.

“His unrelenting efforts throughout the year ensured that the existing funds going to the County’s hospitals were fully protected, and that the legislation implementing the waiver, SB 1100, was crafted to maximize potential new federal revenues for the County and for all of California’s public and private safety-net hospitals,” said Molina.

The award describes De La Torre as a “forceful, tenacious and effective” advocate.

Among past recipients of the County’s Distinguished Legislative Service Award are: U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein; U.S. Reps. Brian Bilbray, Julian Dixon, David Dreier, Steven Horn and Lucille Roybal-Allard; state Sens. Martha Escutia and Bob Margett; and state Assemblymen Martin Gallegos, Robert Hertzberg, Gary Miller, Antonio Villaraigosa and Roderick Wright.