



Sacramento and Washington, D.C. – Pursuits of County Advocacy Position on State Legislation Related to Civil Disputes and Veterinary Medicine and Federal Legislation Related to Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations

This report contains pursuits of County advocacy position on the following State legislation:

Civil Disputes

Background

- [SB 940 \(Umberg\)](#), as amended on June 27, 2024, would modify and update provisions of the California Arbitration Act, by:
 - Strengthening arbitrator ethical guidelines, such as prohibiting an arbitrator, during the pendency of an arbitration, from soliciting a party to the arbitration or from accepting an offer of employment in another case involving a party to the pending arbitration;
 - Requiring the disclosure of any solicitation made after January 1, 2025, and within the last two years by a private arbitration company to a party or lawyer for a party;
 - Prohibiting out-of-state arbitration of California-based consumer contracts;
 - Requiring the State Bar to create a program to certify alternative dispute resolution providers; and
 - Permitting plaintiffs to seek dispute resolution using the small claims court process in lieu of arbitration.

County Impact

- The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) indicates that the current law governing consumer arbitration contract disputes heavily favors businesses over the consumer. SB 940 would overhaul the codified arbitration

process and level the playing field by instituting critical new protections for the consumer.

- DCBA notes that laws designed to protect consumers against fraud, unsafe products, and other forms of corporate wrongdoing are often undermined by businesses' ability to demand that disputes be settled via arbitration, often out of state or subject to other state's laws.

Support and Opposition

- SB 940 is supported by the California Employment Lawyers Association and Consumer Attorneys of California.
- SB 940 is opposed by: the American Arbitration Association; American Property Casualty Insurance Association; California Building Industry Association; California Chamber of Commerce; California Retailers Association; Civil Justice Association of California; and Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Status

- SB 940 is pending consideration on the Assembly Floor.

Recommendation

- This Office and DCBA recommend supporting SB 940 to level the playing field in consumer arbitration contract disputes by instituting new protections for the consumer and providing greater transparency on arbitration firms.
- Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals that protect consumers against fraud, scams, and unfair or deceptive business practices, **the Sacramento Advocates will support SB 940.**

Veterinary Medicine: Spay and Neuter Techniques

Background

- California currently accredits two veterinary schools, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Western University of Health Sciences, located in Pomona.
- [SB 1233 \(Wilk\)](#), as amended on May 16, 2024, would request the Regents of the University of California and the governing body of the Western University of Health Sciences, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to develop high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter certification programs to be offered as elective coursework to students enrolled in veterinary medicine programs, as well as to California-licensed veterinarians and California-registered veterinary technicians.
- SB 1233 would require the certification programs to make available to the public low- or no-cost spay and neuter procedures that are performed by program participants.

County Impact

- The Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) reports that if the veterinary programs implement the proposed certification program, it will

provide opportunities for additional low- and no-cost sterilization surgeries for pet dogs and cats in the County to help address pet overpopulation.

- DACC also notes that SB 1233 would also help overcome the current shortage of qualified veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians trained in the concept of high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter techniques.

Support and Opposition

- SB 1233 is sponsored by the California Veterinary Medical Association and is supported by: the California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals); Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association.
- There is no opposition on file.

Status

- SB 1233 is pending consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Recommendation

- This Office and DACC recommend supporting SB 1233 to help address a statewide veterinary shortage and provide low- and no-cost spay and neuter services to the public to reduce pet overpopulation.
- Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals to increase resources for workforce development and training programs that prepare workers for jobs in high-growth and emerging industries, **the Sacramento Advocates will support SB 1233.**

This report also contains pursuits of County advocacy position on the following federal legislation:

[H.R. 6655 \(Foxx\) – A Stronger Workforce For America Act](#)

Background

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the primary federal workforce development statute, and it provides the largest source of federal funding for workforce and training programs, including formula grants for states and local governments.
- Congress is considering the reauthorization of WIOA, which expired in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020. Funding for authorized programs and activities has since been extended through the annual appropriations process.
- On April 9, 2024, the House passed its WIOA bill, H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) released a discussion draft of its WIOA bill on June 21, 2024.

H.R. 6655 (Foxx) – A Stronger Workforce for America Act

- [H.R. 6655](#), as amended on April 5, 2024, would authorize appropriations for WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth formula grants for FFY 2025-2030 at fixed amounts slightly higher than FFY 2024 enacted levels.

- H.R. 6655 also proposes several changes to the administration of WIOA Title I programs, including funding uses at the state and local levels.
- Provisions of interest to the County include:
 - Requiring at least 50 percent of funding allocated to local areas for Adult and Dislocated Workers programs support eligible training activities, as defined.
 - Allowing states to reserve an additional 10 percent of the state's WIOA Title I allotment to establish a Critical Industry Skills Fund, with a state match.
 - Creating new performance indicators and clarifying performance levels at which local areas may be subject to sanctions.
 - Modifying allowable activities for WIOA Youth formula grants and reducing the minimum percentage of total funding required to serve out-of-school youth ("opportunity youth") from 75 to 65 percent.
 - Increasing caps on Incumbent Worker Training and other upskilling training funds.

Senate HELP Committee Discussion Draft

- The [Senate's discussion draft](#), released on June 21, 2024, proposes to authorize appropriations for WIOA Title I formula grants at "sums as may be necessary" for each of the fiscal years 2025-2029.
- The draft also proposes several changes to the administration of WIOA Title I programs, including funding uses at the state and local levels. Provisions of interest to the County include:
 - Allowing states to reserve an additional 10 percent of the state's WIOA Title I allotment to establish an Industry or Sector Partnership Development Fund or for employment-based training activities.
 - Mandating standing committees within local Workforce Boards that were required under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and removed with the 2014 reauthorization of WIOA.
 - Eliminating the requirement in existing WIOA law that members of a local board possess, to the greatest extent possible, "optimum policymaking authority" within the organization or entity that they represent.
 - Mandating employers cover 50 percent of Work Experience (WEX) participant wages under Youth Activities.
- The draft does not include the 50 percent federal training mandate proposed in H.R. 6655.

County Impact

- For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the County of Los Angeles received approximately \$39 million in WIOA Title I funds, inclusive of Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth grants.
- The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) reports that both proposals would result in a reduction in local workforce board resources and flexibility to operationalize services and programs.
- DEO opposes the federal training mandate in H.R. 6655 and reports that although training and skills development are recognized as essential, if more

funds are dedicated to training, it is less likely that individuals will be able to receive proper supportive services to complete the training. In addition, it leaves less flexibility for local areas to direct funding based on need.

- In addition, DEO indicates that if either proposal moves forward, as proposed, there may be an additional ten percent decrease in local funds which would be reallocated to the State on top of the current 15 percent set aside. This would divert much-needed resources from local communities.
- DEO is also concerned with the reinstatement of standing committees within local Workforce Boards, as proposed in the Senate discussion draft. While well-intentioned, standing committees historically diverted staff time, attention, and related resources towards inward-facing administrative activities rather than on cultivating external partnerships with employers and other stakeholders in the wider community. Mandated standing committees were removed through the adoption of WIOA to increase operational efficiencies.
- Further, DEO has concerns with changes that require employers to cover 50 percent of WEX participant wages, which will only serve as an additional barrier to youth employment and decrease the number of WEX opportunities.

Status

- H.R. 6655 has been referred to the Senate HELP Committee.
- The Senate discussion draft was circulated by the Senate HELP Committee. The Committee is expected to consider the bill later this year.

Recommendation

- This Office and DEO recommend opposing provisions in the WIOA reauthorization proposals that reduce critical employment and training resources for local workforce boards and flexibility to operationalize services and programs.
- Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals that reauthorize and increase funding for WIOA programs and other employment initiatives and provide administrative flexibility to effectively meet the present and emerging needs of Los Angeles County's diverse workforce, **[the Washington D.C. Advocates will oppose the provisions in H.R. 6655 and similar measures that reduce administrative flexibility and funding for local areas.](#)**

Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025

Background

- On July 10, 2024, the House Appropriations Committee approved [H.R. 9029 \(Aderholt\)](#), Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025.
- The bill includes \$198.4 billion, a reduction of \$24.6 billion, or 11 percent, below the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 enacted level.
- H.R. 9029 would appropriate \$7.4 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), \$1.8 billion below the FFY 2024 level, which includes significant reductions in funding for programs such as:

- The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), \$761 million below the 2024 level, impacting programs such as firearm injury and mortality research, suicide prevention, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prevention, opioid overdose prevention, and more;
- Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative, \$220 million below the 2024 level;
- Center for Forecasting and Analytics (CFA), a cut of \$55 million below the 2024 level; and
- Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance, a cut of \$506 million below the 2024 level.
- H.R. 9029 would appropriate \$7.4 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a decrease of \$647 million below 2024 levels, which includes reductions in funding for:
 - Title X Family Planning, a cut of \$286 million below the 2024 level;
 - Health Workforce training, a decrease of \$62 million below the 2024 level;
 - Centers of Excellence, a cut of \$28 million below the 2024 level;
 - Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), a cut of \$16 million below the 2024 level;
 - Nursing Workforce Diversity, a cut of \$24 million below the 2024 level;
 - Maternal and Child Health programs, a decrease of \$152 million below the 2024 level (including elimination of funding for the Healthy Start program); and
 - Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, a decrease of \$190 million below the 2024 level (including elimination of funding for the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative).
- H.R. 9029 would also appropriate \$1.3 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I State Grants, \$1.7 billion below the 2024 level, which includes reductions in funding for:
 - WIOA Youth Job Training Activities; and
 - WIOA Adult Job Training Activities, a \$712 million rescission from the 2024 level.

County Impact

- According to the Department of Public Health (DPH), the proposed funding reductions to the CDC and HRSA initiatives, would have significant impacts on County programs. These impacts include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Cuts to the EHE Initiative would result in a loss of approximately \$11.25 million for FFY 2024-25, severely hindering the County's local response to the national goal of ending the HIV epidemic and impacting the most vulnerable populations living with or affected by HIV. Over 30 programs that support over 15 service categories and over 100 contracts with clinics and community-based organizations would end.
 - NCIPC, which currently funds \$24.5 million annually to operate the National Violent Deaths Reporting System, would be eliminated. The County receives CDC funding through the State to contribute local data to this system.
 - While DPH does not receive direct funding from CFA, cuts to this program

could impact CFA's ability to support local health jurisdictions through advanced statistical modeling and analysis, limiting County's access to expertise and reducing the capacity to forecast infectious disease trends to inform County policymaking.

- Title X Family Planning cuts, which would strip local community providers of funding to provide essential, life-saving sexual and reproductive health services and incur greater costs for the healthcare system. DPH receives \$120,000 annually in Title X program funds.
- The Healthy Start Program, which provides funding to support pregnant and parenting persons at risk of adverse birth outcomes.
- According to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the proposed reduction in WIOA State Title I Formula Grants would reduce the County's allocation from an estimated \$34.9 million to approximately \$15.35 million, impacting the daily operations of the County's America's Job Centers of California and resulting in service reductions for job seekers and businesses.
- In addition, the proposed elimination of funding for WIOA Youth Job Training Activities would impact services that provide local in-school and out-of-school youth that have employment barriers, with employment and postsecondary education opportunities. In Program Year 2022, WIOA Youth provided career and training services to more than 2,000 local youth.

Status

- H.R. 9029 is pending consideration on the House Floor.

Recommendation

- This Office, DPH and DEO recommend opposing cuts to critical public health and workforce training programs that support core County services and serve vulnerable populations.
- Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to increase and sustain flexible funding for safety net hospitals, public health infrastructure and clinics that service disadvantaged communities and to increase funding for WIOA programs and other employment initiatives, **the Washington D.C. Advocates will oppose the proposed reductions to CDC and HRSA programs, and WIOA Title I State Grants in H.R. 9029 and similar measures.**



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