



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: May 22, 2017

Date: May 17, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors

From: M. Lisa Dugan, Director, North Coast Regional Department of Child Support Services

Subject: Letter of Support for Trailer Bill Language for Additional Funding of the Local Child Support Program

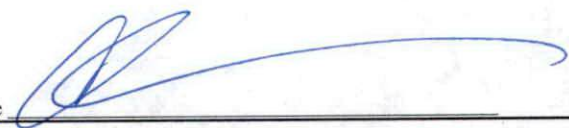
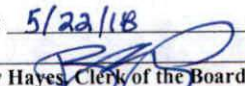
RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign a letter supporting budget bill language for additional funding of the Local Child Support Program.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Funding for local child support agencies (LCSAs), has been flat for almost twenty years. As a result, many LCSAs have faced multi-year layoffs and a reduction of core services to families. Numerous attempts have been made to redistribute the inadequate funding among all LCSAs to no avail. Until new monies are provided, any redistribution of the same funds will result in wiping out most of the small rural county LCSAs.

The state's FY 2018-19 budget includes a trailer bill that will provide the first funding infusion in almost two decades for local programming, and will be a step in the right direction to more adequately fund some of the most severely underfunded county LCSAs. This agenda item requests that your Board send a letter to Humboldt County's representatives and other stakeholders urging their support for this budget trailer bill.

For your reference, below is the budget bill language referenced above. This language was recently adopted by the Senate Budget Subcommittee:

Prepared by	Sean Quincey	Signature	
REVIEW:			
Auditor	County Counsel	Human Resources	Other
TYPE OF ITEM:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent			
<input type="checkbox"/> Departmental			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:			
Board Order No. _____			
Meeting of: _____			
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT			
Upon motion of Supervisor <u>Bass</u> Seconded by Supervisor <u>Fennell</u>			
Ayes <u>Bass, Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson</u>			
Nays _____			
Abstain _____			
Absent _____			
and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.			
Dated: <u>5/22/18</u>			
By: 			
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board			

Add Provision X to Item 5175-101-0001 (for Local assistance, Department of Child Support Services) to read:

- X. (a) Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$22,700,000 is to provide funding to local child support agencies whose average caseload ratio is greater than 175 cases per staff.
- (b) The Department of Child Support Services shall work with the Child Support Directors' Association to determine an allocation schedule for these funds.
- (c) The reporting requirements in Section 17556 of the Family Code shall only apply to local child support agencies that receive an allocation of funds pursuant to this Provision.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no cost to sending a letter to Humboldt County's legislative representatives and stakeholders. However, should the language be adopted in the state's FY 2018-19 budget, it would decrease the risk of the North Coast Regional Department of Child Support Services losing funding this year and in to the future.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Support Letter



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

May 18, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: Budget Bill Language for Additional Local Agency Child Support Funding - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support of trailer bill language authorizing additional funding of the local child support program.

Local child support agencies (LCSAs) have operated without additional funding for over 17 years. As a result many local county programs have suffered several rounds of layoffs and cannot adequately offer core program services that help children receive the support and security they need when their parents live in different homes. While the local program in Humboldt County is fortunate that it has not yet been impacted, this funding situation is of great concern to Humboldt and it is only a matter of time before we too will be forced to make the same difficult decisions due to a lack of funds. Multiple attempts over the last 15 years on the part of the LCSAs to redistribute the current dollars allocated at the local level have been unsuccessful, primarily because any redistribution would mean completely wiping out this vital program in many small rural counties in California. An infusion of funds at the local level, as described in the budget bill, would begin to help bring counties into funding parity without sacrificing small county programs.

For the reasons described above, we urge your support for additional ongoing funding for the local child support program to insure children in all California counties enjoy basic child support services. For your reference, below is the budget bill language referenced above. This language was recently adopted by the Senate Budget Subcommittee:

Add Provision X to Item 5175-101-0001 (for Local Assistance, Department of Child Support Services) to read:

- X. (a) Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$22,700,000 is to provide funding to local child support agencies whose average caseload ratio is greater than 175 cases per staff.
- (b) The Department of Child Support Services shall work with the Child Support Directors' Association to determine an allocation schedule for these funds.
- (c) The reporting requirements in Section 17556 of the Family Code shall only apply to local child support agencies that receive an allocation of funds pursuant to this Provision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Sundberg".

Ryan Sundberg
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Senator Mike McGuire
Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Board of Supervisors
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties