

**CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
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**County of Sacramento**

**PHIL SERNA  
SUPERVISOR  
FIRST DISTRICT**

**ALMA MUÑOZ**  
Chief of Staff

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Kiley  
2445 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Protecting the Federal Safety Net**

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I urge you to protect federal funding for essential safety net programs that serve Sacramento County residents. Our Board is responsible for serving our local community, in partnership with the state of California and the federal government, through a broad range of vital programs and services. We are committed to doing so in a manner that helps ensure the health and wellbeing of our residents, including children and families in poverty, seniors and disabled individuals, and those in need of shelter. Our goal is to ensure that these families and individuals receive the necessary benefits for which they are eligible to provide stability and help put them on the road to self-sufficiency.

As you know, significant cuts to a wide range of mandatory safety net programs are under consideration as part of this year's budget reconciliation process. While the County understands the need for fiscal discipline at all levels of government and the need to examine federal spending, we are deeply concerned by current proposals to make significant cuts to key programs, including Medicaid (Medi-Cal), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh), and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKs) block grant. In the face of these significant cuts, the state may be unable to backfill billions of dollars to maintain services, potentially jeopardizing these programs, limiting their impact, and passing costs along to County government.

Medicaid is a vital federal-state-local intergovernmental partnership safeguarding the health and wellbeing of millions of California residents, including 543,722 Medi-Cal

participants in Sacramento in 2024. Of those participants, 177,018 were 19 and under, 50,154 were over 65, 1,801 were Long Term Care, and 634 were Former Foster youth. California's 2024-2025 budget projects federal funding to account for \$98 billion of the total \$161 billion in Medi-Cal, or 61 percent. In 2022, federal spending on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program spending represented \$6.9 billion in Sacramento. Cuts to Medicaid of the magnitude under discussion—whether through structural changes to its financing, reduced federal reimbursement rates, or new eligibility restrictions—would increase costs for the state and could lead to Sacramento County residents losing health care coverage if the loss of federal funding cannot be backfilled. Loss of funds would impact a significant number of low-income Californians. Families would lose access to health insurance potentially leading to delayed or forgone needed medical care. Families would suffer an increased financial strain due to medical bills. The impact for our vulnerable populations like seniors and individuals with chronic conditions could lead to higher use of emergency rooms, medical stays, and death. Elderly and disabled individuals may not be able to remain in their home increasing the number of institutionalized individuals.

Similarly, SNAP is a strong and effective tool in the fight against hunger and poverty in California. Serving 264,308 Sacramento residents in February 2024 (17 percent of our population), SNAP provided an estimated \$587,934,096.00 in federal benefits in FFY 2024. It is vital that the federal government maintain its partnership with the state and counties in funding this critical program, which primarily benefits food insecure families, children, elderly and disabled individuals, and individuals who are low income. We oppose changes to SNAP that would reduce participation among eligible households, cut benefits, further shift costs to the state, or impose costly and unnecessary administrative requirements on Sacramento employees tasked with delivering the program.

Sacramento County is also responsible for administering the TANF program, which served 61,215 participants (20,284 households) in June 2024. In 2024, Sacramento received \$187,161,881.00. California was one of five states selected to pilot new, innovative metrics for TANF work and education outcomes under the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023, but the Trump administration has eliminated all five pilots, including California's. California's counties have long called for substantive changes to TANF to modernize the program and urge any reforms to take place in a bipartisan fashion that allows this critical resource to best meet local communities' needs.

California's TANF program primarily supports cash assistance, work activities, supportive services, childcare and other programs that help vulnerable families meet their basic needs and eventually move towards self-sufficiency. TANF has increased housing stability, reduced poverty, assisted in job training and subsidized employment, provided the ability for participants to get needed mental health and substance abuse treatment, and provided crucial supportive services for vulnerable families increasing positive outcomes for children including better health and reduced risk of child abuse and neglect. It is critically important that the federal government continue to support this program.

April 28, 2025

-3-

Cuts to these vital safety net programs would have ripple effects, leading to increased healthcare costs, higher unemployment, greater interactions with law enforcement, and rising homelessness. In addition, if the state requires counties to keep funding these services without providing alternate funding, Sacramento would be forced to cut spending elsewhere (e.g., such as public safety, parks, and county initiatives to address homelessness). We ask you to protect these essential programs to help us preserve the well-being and stability of millions of Californians.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Serna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Serna, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors, First District  
Sacramento County