

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 13, 2022

Supporting President Biden’s Request for Funding to Combat COVID-19 and Monkeypox

On September 2, President Biden’s Administration requested \$26.9 billion in funding from Congress to combat COVID-19 and monkeypox as part of a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund government operations beginning October 1, 2022. The Administration is providing technical assistance to Congress on a CR which would provide guidance to lawmakers on funding and legislative adjustments necessary to avoid disruptions to a range of public services, including the public health response to ongoing threats.

COVID-19 has already had a devastating impact on Los Angeles County residents, with over 3.2 million confirmed cases and more than 31,000 people tragically losing their lives. Federal support for local efforts has been critical to help prevent more serious outcomes, but more funding is needed to prevent any further unnecessary serious disease or loss of life. The Biden Administration reiterated that ongoing COVID-19 response efforts continue to require additional funding, which has been the case

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since March. The inability to come to an agreement earlier this year resulted in significant impacts in the County, especially with respect to the ability to continue providing testing, vaccinations, and treatments to uninsured residents. Since March, the County has utilized its funding to provide testing to nearly 200,000 uninsured residents. The testing situation will further be exacerbated without additional funding, as the Administration has already had to suspend sending free tests to Americans, leaving the domestic testing capacity diminished heading into the fall and winter. The need for additional support is especially heightened with the authorization of updated booster shots to address the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants, as well as ahead of an anticipated surge in COVID-19 this winter. The President's \$22.4 billion funding request will help meet immediate short-term needs, including testing, accelerating the research and development of next generation vaccines and therapeutics, prepare for future variants, and to support the global response to COVID-19. Without additional support, it's estimated that it will cost the County significantly over \$115 million to continue the health response to emerging pandemic needs for the next year, including the continuation of no-cost community-based testing and vaccination networks.

Additionally, critical resources are needed to bolster efforts to combat monkeypox. Los Angeles County is one of the hardest hit areas with 1,733 cases as of September 6. Through the Administration's actions, the County has received vital access with respect to vaccine supplies, testing, and access to treatment for the highest-risk populations – which was further bolstered by the federal emergency declaration. As of September 1, over 113,000 doses have been allocated to the County, of which 59,000 were quickly administered. However, additional support is needed, as

current and anticipated supplies will meet the need of roughly 56% of the estimated 180,000 residents that are currently defined as at-risk for monkeypox. To successfully end the current outbreak and prepare for any future outbreaks, additional funding is needed to support testing, treatment, vaccination, and community engagement efforts. The Administration's \$3.9 billion request would help the County with its efforts for vaccine administration and outreach, testing, treatment, and to provide additional support for community providers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office (CEO) – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Services, to:

1. Support the request from President Biden's Administration for additional COVID-19 and Monkeypox funding, and further advocate for direct funding for large urban local public health departments in jurisdictions with the most impact from COVID-19 and monkeypox; and
2. Send a five-signature letter to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, with a copy to the Senate and House Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members, and the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, urging them to work with urgency and expediency to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) that provides \$22.4 billion in additional COVID-19 relief funding as well as \$3.9 billion to combat the monkeypox outbreak

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