

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Pursuit of State Legislation to Support Out-of-State Medical Volunteers

The Remote Area Medical – Los Angeles (RAM-LA) event took place in Los Angeles County from August 11th through August 18th of 2009. RAM-LA was a huge success. It provided free medical, dental and vision services to uninsured and underinsured residents of Los Angeles County and surrounding counties.

During the eight-day health event, RAM-LA had 14,561 patient encounters, gave out 1,984 free glasses, extracted 2,274 teeth, provided 5,438 fillings, served 988 women for women’s health issues and provided 1,585 people with acupuncture treatment. These services were not only free to anyone seeking care, but were provided at no cost to the taxpayers and the government. RAM-LA provided roughly \$2.9 million dollars worth of donated services.

Despite all the outreach efforts and media attention, RAM experienced a shortage of volunteer medical, dental and vision providers. As a result, thousands of residents seeking medical, vision and dental treatment were turned away.

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The RAM organization is internationally and nationally known to medical and dental providers throughout the United States. Doctors, dentists, physician's assistants and nurses outside of the state of California are eager to volunteer their services and participate in these types of events at their own expense. Due to the current restrictions and licensure regulations imposed by the State of California, they are unable to provide much needed volunteer services during an event such as the one that took place in the County of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to pursue State legislation that is supportive of an exemption from licensure within California for those out-of-state licensed medical personnel in good standing (physicians, dentists, nurses and other health professionals) who are in the State for a short duration of time to provide volunteer medical and dental services and who are sponsored by non-profit or local community groups.

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