

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 27, 2022

AND SHEILA KUEHL

Supplemental Paid Leave for Monkeypox and COVID-19

Although progress has been made in the fight against COVID-19 and monkeypox, both viruses continue to circulate throughout Los Angeles County, causing not only devastating health impacts but also carrying significant economic impacts for essential workers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people with monkeypox remain isolated for the duration of the illness, which typically lasts two to four weeks. The CDC further recommends that people with COVID-19 isolate for 5 to 10 days depending on severity of symptoms. These lengthy isolation periods can cause severe disruption, especially for essential workers who cannot afford to take reduced or unpaid leave for lengthy illness.

In California, most essential workers are Latino or Black. In fact, of Latino workers in the State, 55% are employed as essential workers, as are 48% of Black workers. Unfortunately, these same communities are being impacted most by COVID-19 and monkeypox. During the most recent COVID-19 surge, Latino and Black

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residents had the highest case rates. And of the confirmed monkeypox cases in the County thus far, 44% are Latino and 12% are Black.

The California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 152, which would extend California's COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave through the end of 2022 while providing relief to small businesses that are incurring the costs of such leave. AB 152 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. There is no accompanying measure to provide leave for monkeypox infection.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with relevant Departments, to report back prior to the October 18, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting with options to provide supplemental paid sick leave, including retroactive options and considerations for potential costs, for resident workers with suspected or confirmed monkeypox infection.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch and County advocates in Sacramento to respectfully urge Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB 152.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation and collaboration with the Director of Personnel, CEO-Budget, CEO-Employee Relations, and the Departments of Economic Opportunities, and Consumer and Business Affairs, to report back, in writing, prior to the October 18, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting with options to provide supplemental paid sick leave for new and emerging infections that may require isolation and quarantine. The report back shall include criteria that could be used to qualify the need for supplemental paid leave.

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