



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
30.		<b>Favor</b>	Nathaniel M Pedley	Allocate more funding to DHS to boost pay and benefits for physicians.
		<b>Oppose</b>	Monisha Parker	<p>Strengthening the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Various Budget Units Appropriation Adjustments in Los Angeles County requires comprehensive analysis and consideration of multiple factors. Here are some key areas to focus on:</p> <p><b>**Transparency and Public Engagement:**</b></p> <p><b>***Clear communication:**</b> Ensure detailed information about the proposed adjustments is publicly available, including reasons for changes, expected impacts, and alternative options considered.</p> <p><b>***Public hearings and forums:**</b> Host public hearings and forums to gather feedback from residents, community organizations, and stakeholders throughout the budget adjustment process.</p> <p><b>***Independent review:**</b> Consider an independent review of the proposed adjustments by a non-partisan entity to ensure objectivity and transparency.</p> <p><b>**Efficiency and Effectiveness:**</b></p> <p><b>***Data-driven analysis:**</b> Base the adjustments on thorough data analysis that demonstrates their necessity and potential effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes.</p> <p><b>***Program evaluation:**</b> Conduct evaluations of existing programs and services to identify areas for cost savings or reallocation of resources.</p> <p><b>***Collaboration:**</b> Encourage collaboration between different budget units to identify opportunities for shared services and streamlining operations.</p> <p><b>**Equity and Fairness:**</b></p> <p><b>***Impact assessment:**</b> Analyze the potential impact of the adjustments on different communities and ensure equitable distribution of resources across the county.</p> <p><b>***Community priorities:**</b> Align the adjustments with community-identified priorities and address challenges faced by underserved populations.</p> <p><b>***Progressive taxation:**</b> Consider exploring progressive taxation systems to generate additional revenue without disproportionately impacting low-income residents.</p> <p><b>**Long-Term Sustainability:**</b></p> <p><b>***Multi-year planning:**</b> Consider the long-term implications of the adjustments and their impact on future budgets.</p> <p><b>***Economic forecasting:**</b> Take into account economic forecasts and potential risks to ensure financial stability throughout the fiscal year.</p> <p><b>***Reserve funds:**</b> Maintain adequate reserve funds to address unforeseen</p>



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circumstances and emergencies.

**\*\*Additional considerations:\*\***

**\*\*\*Technology advancements:\*\*** Explore opportunities to leverage technology to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

**\*\*\*Public-private partnerships:\*\*** Consider public-private partnerships for project development or service delivery to potentially improve efficiency and access resources.

**\*\*\*Performance-based budgeting:\*\*** Implement performance-based budgeting techniques to link funding to achieving specific outcomes.

Remember, strengthening the budget adjustments is an ongoing process that requires active participation from the public, stakeholders, and policymakers. By prioritizing transparency, efficiency, equity, and long-term sustainability, Los Angeles County can make informed decisions that ensure responsible use of public resources and benefit the entire community.

It's crucial to note that I cannot offer specific recommendations without access to detailed information about the proposed adjustments and the current fiscal situation of Los Angeles County. For more tailored advice, you can consult the official budget documents, attend public hearings, or reach out to your elected officials.

to reduce the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Various Budget Units Appropriation Adjustments in Los Angeles County without more context. These adjustments involve complex political and economic considerations, and any suggestions could have unintended consequences. However, I can offer some general strategies and resources that might be helpful for understanding and influencing the process.

**\*\*Understand the Adjustments:\*\***

**\*\*\*Review the details:\*\*** Start by accessing the official budget documents from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer's office. These documents should outline the proposed adjustments, reasons for the changes, and expected impacts.

**\*\*\*Focus on specific areas:\*\*** Look for areas that align with your personal interests or concerns. You can delve deeper into the justifications and potential impacts of those specific adjustments.

**\*\*\*Attend public hearings:\*\*** The public has the opportunity to comment and advocate during public hearings on the budget adjustments. Attending these hearings can give you a better understanding of the adjustments and how they'll impact the community.

**\*\*Explore Opportunities to Influence:\*\***

**\*\*\*Contact your elected officials:\*\*** Share your thoughts and concerns about

			<p>the budget adjustments with your elected representatives at the County level. Explain your specific concerns and potential alternatives you might propose.</p> <p><b>***Organize or join advocacy groups:**</b> Consider joining or forming a group of individuals who share your concerns about the adjustments. Together, your voice can have a stronger impact.</p> <p><b>***Use social media:**</b> Utilize social media platforms to raise awareness about the adjustments and encourage others to get involved.</p> <p><b>**Remember:**</b></p> <p><b>***Be specific and informed:**</b> When suggesting alternatives or expressing concerns, ensure they are based on factual information and a clear understanding of the budget realities.</p> <p><b>***Respect different perspectives:**</b> Recognize that there are diverse viewpoints on the budget adjustments, and strive for respectful dialogue.</p> <p><b>***Focus on common ground:**</b> Look for areas where different groups can agree and advocate for solutions that benefit the entire community.</p> <p>Remember, actively engaging in the budget process can shape the future of Los Angeles County. By understanding the proposed adjustments, advocating for what matters to you, and finding common ground with others, you can contribute to a more responsible and equitable use of public resources.</p>
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>2</b>

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this note in support of increased funding to DHS to boost benefits and salaries of its physicians. Specifically, I urge the Board of Supervisors to support approval of Megaflex benefits and cost of living adjustments that are currently being negotiated.

Physicians work at DHS because they are mission-driven, and they accept lower salaries and inferior benefits for the privilege to work with like-minded peers dedicated to historically underserved patient populations. However, the discrepancy in salary and benefits between DHS and other institutions, for both primary care physicians and specialist physicians, is widening to a point that DHS is no longer able to attract the same caliber of doctors. For instance, DHS does not offer maternity and paternity leave to physicians, and I personally know of several excellent applicants who ultimately chose alternative jobs at UCLA or Kaiser because they planned on having children and were understandably concerned about having protected time to care for and bond with them. As a result of physician shortages, our patients are waiting scandalously long times for specialty appointments, and more and more specialty care is falling on the shoulders of primary care physicians like myself, and we are already stretched thin given our patients have a degree of psychosocial and medical complexity that far exceeds the average. It is not uncommon, for instance, for a patient to wait almost a year for a colonoscopy after a positive fecal blood test; guidelines insist on colonoscopy within 3 months of a positive fecal test to prevent a pre-cancerous lesion from becoming advanced cancer. This is the direct result of DHS not being able to hire sufficient Gastroenterology (GI) physicians.

If DHS physicians were given Megaflex benefits, it would go a long way to not only showing currently employed physicians that they are valued by their leadership, but also help attract the best of the best doctors to serve Los Angeles County patients. It would help make DHS the premier local health system and solidify your own legacies as Supervisors who helped usher in a new high standard in medical care for the most vulnerable patients.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Pedley, MD, MBA

Primary Care Physician and Assistant Professor

Olive View – UCLA Medical Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA