

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

AGN. NO.  
September 16, 2025

**Maintaining Community's Health and Safety Through the Los Angeles County's Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force**

In 1998, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) to "investigate the problem of unlicensed dental operations...unlicensed medical practitioners and sales of illicit pharmaceuticals..."<sup>1</sup>, which led to the creation of the Los Angeles County Health authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT), a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional taskforce made up of internal and external stakeholders that includes DHS, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (DA), County Counsel, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the California State Department of Health Services' Medical-Cal Fraud Division.

Between 2022 to 2025, HALT has been responsible for 225 cases, 85 arrests, 189,923 illegal pharmaceuticals seized amounting to \$1,103,658 dollars, closure of 75 illegal businesses, 82 assists with other agencies, and saved the County and the State \$1,540,000 dollars in potential Medi-Cal fraud<sup>2</sup>. HALT's activities include investigating "sale of prescription medicine without a license or prescription, practicing dentistry or

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<sup>1</sup>

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/aboutus/aboutdisplay.cfm?ou=ph&prog=programs&unit=halt>

<sup>2</sup> Data received from HALT.

**MOTION**

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medicine without a license, illegally operating blood labs, forced alcohol aversion therapy clinics, and illegal state Medicaid (Medi-Cal) billing practices.”<sup>3</sup> Additionally, HALT “provides educational seminars to community groups informing them of the medical services available, as well as the dangers involved in receiving medical care from untrained practitioners.”<sup>4</sup>

On August 18, 2025, HALT conducted a search warrant in Riverside County, which was connected to an operation in Cudahy, on one of the largest illicit pharmaceutical distributors in Southern California. HALT had evidence that the suspect was shipping to every supervisorial district in the County. At the end of the operation, HALT recovered 18,743 of counterfeit/misbranded pharmaceuticals valued at \$735,420.

The current cost of operating the HALT program is approximately \$1.5 million dollars, with DHS having the sole responsibility of funding it. Given this is a joint effort involving both health and law enforcement partners, it is only fair that those costs be equitably shared. Specifically, DHS should support the health component, the investigations, and necessary equipment; and enforcement should be handled by LASD and the DA, and if necessary, external law enforcement partners like LAPD and the City Attorney’s Office. Given the impending fiscal challenges to patient care, DHS will not be able to continue sole financial support for HALT.

The longstanding goal of HALT is to “combat and deter criminal activity which has an adverse effect on the public’s health and well-being.”<sup>5</sup> The work is important, and HALT is a necessary tool to keep our communities safe from unsanctioned and illegal

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<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/aboutus/aboutdisplay.cfm?ou=ph&prog=programs&unit=halt>

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

medical practices and to minimize the stress on our existing first responder and emergency response systems.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Health Services (DHS) to work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the District Attorney's Office (DA), and any other relevant department determined by the CEO, to institute a funding plan for the Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT), during Fiscal Year 2025-2026, that equitably disburses the fiscal responsibilities among the relevant and impacted departments, internal and external, and provide a report back within 90 days.

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