

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 7, 2025

Preserving Access to Emergency Services for Vulnerable Communities

Throughout the San Gabriel Valley

On July 15, 2025, the Board approved a Department of Health Services Board Letter increasing the Measure B Trauma Property Tax Assessment rate. This rate increase will help address ongoing financial pressures, as well as anticipated Federal changes that will negatively impact the financial sustainability of healthcare organizations throughout the County. The Measure B rate increase will help support the County’s trauma, emergency, and bioterrorism response, including critical County facilities and programs. However, along with the Measure B rate increase, the Board also approved the distribution of \$20 million of one-time, unallocated Measure B funding to be evenly divided across all five districts. Given this, the First District has \$4 million in funding to support trauma, emergency, and bioterrorism response to serve communities in need, including the San Gabriel Valley (SGV).

The SGV is racially and ethnically diverse, with a large majority of Latino/a and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and language heterogeneity. Given the large geographic size of the SGV, which spans approximately 400 square miles, and the diversity of communities it is home to, adequate health care affordability

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Mitchell	_____
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and accessibility is limited. In fact, the Greater San Gabriel Valley Community Health Snapshot 2020 report found that residents of the Greater San Gabriel Valley were often located long distances away from available health care providers and cited this as a key barrier to access.

Unfortunately, as a result of the passage of federal H.R. 1 legislation on July 4, 2025, which includes nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, many Medi-Cal enrollees are expected to lose access to health care coverage. This is largely due to the implementation of work requirements among individual ages 19 to 64 (the Medicaid expansion group), as well as more frequent eligibility redeterminations that will pose significant administrative barriers. H.R. 1 is expected to impact as many as 3.5 million Medicaid enrollees in California who are expected to lose healthcare access.

These changes are further compounded by increased federal immigration enforcement of which Los Angeles County has been a target and has had a chilling effect in healthcare access among immigrant communities. Unfortunately, due to fear and growing mistrust in institutions, immigrant communities are expected to avoid preventative health care. Increased fear among immigrant communities, and the increased number of uninsured individuals as a result of H.R. 1 will lead to a greater reliance in emergency services as the primary source of health care.

The Greater El Monte Community Hospital and the Adventist Health White Memorial in Montebello are two of the few hospitals that offer essential emergency services in the San Gabriel Valley region. Given their large reach, and critical role in

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serving vulnerable and diverse communities, addressing ongoing needs is critical to ensuring the health care access of some of the County's most vulnerable communities. In fact, Adventist Health White Memorial in Montebello, formerly known as Beverly Hospital, was at the brink of closure in 2023, prior to being acquired by Adventist Health White Memorial. Serving Montebello and nearby communities, including El Monte, Whittier, and East Los Angeles, the loss of this hospital would have been devastating for the local communities that rely on their essential services.

The aforementioned federal changes unfortunately threaten the financial sustainability of many healthcare organizations that serve as the safety net for the County's most at need residents, including the Greater El Monte Community Hospital, and the Adventist Health White Memorial in Montebello. Therefore, Measure B funding is necessary to help mitigate the impact of fiscal challenges for these hospitals' emergency department care and response.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Health Services to execute the necessary agreements and allocate \$1 million to the Greater El Monte Community Hospital, and \$1 million to the Adventist Health White Memorial in Montebello, for qualified Measure B purposes, including to maintain the hospitals' vital emergency department care services, before December 31, 2025.

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HLS:jgd