



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-211

MEETING: May 3, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for AB 2024

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 2024 Allowing Physicians to be Employed by Critical Access Hospitals; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter. Assembly Bill (AB) 2024 will allow Critical Access Hospitals, of which John C. Fremont Healthcare District (JCFHD) is one, to employ physicians that wish to be hired by the hospital. Currently even though a physician may wish to be hired by JCFHD, it is not possible due to existing regulations contained in the Medical Practice Act.

Please see the attached letter and bill language for additional information.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters supporting legislation that they believe will benefit the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support which may not the impact of a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

AB2024 Letter of Support 2016 (DOCX)
AB 2024 Bill Language (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

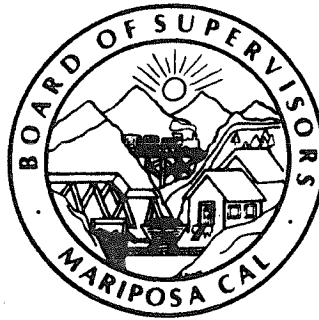
Requested Action Recommended


 Mary Hodson, CAO 4/27/2016

Resolution - Action Requested 2016-211

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



MARY HODSON
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Rudy Salas
Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
State Capitol, Room 2188
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SUPPORT AB 2024 (Wood)

Dear Assembly Member Salas:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors requests your support on AB 2024. This bill will improve access to health care in California's rural communities by giving physicians the choice to be employed. AB 2024 would allow physicians who are willing to live and work in rural areas to focus on providing their patients with timely, quality medical care without the overwhelming burden of administrative, financial and operational concerns associated with maintaining a medical practice.

Mariposa is a small rural county with a population of less than 20,000. We are a gateway to Yosemite National Park with more than 2,000,000 visitors passing through here every year. The John C. Fremont Healthcare District (JCFHD) is located in Mariposa County, and even though JCFHD is a small facility it offers a broad range of services from Home Health & Hospice, Acute, Rehab and Skilled Nursing Inpatient Care, and 24-hour Emergency Services to three rural health clinics.

JCFHD is one of California's 34 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). CAHs are the smallest, most remote rural hospitals, and face numerous challenges in effectively recruiting and retaining physicians. One of the biggest challenges is not being able to hire physicians who ask to be hired. The current situation requires the physician to establish themselves as an independent contractor, pay taxes quarterly, pay full Medicare taxes and not be eligible for many employment related benefits.

All States allow employment of physicians, subject to certain conditions. However, California continues to be the most restrictive State for employment of physicians by hospitals, especially District hospitals. To remain competitive in an already challenging environment, JCFHD should have the opportunity to offer physicians the type of contractual relationship that they desire.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN CARRIER
Chair

cc: Assembly Member Bigelow
Rural County Representatives of California
John C. Fremont Healthcare District