



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
12:00 p.m.**

**PRESIDING
Ruth Evans, Chair
Brian Domingos, Vice Chair**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of March 12, 2014 Minutes

New Business

1. Supervisor Henry R. Perea – San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority **INFORMATION**
2. Councilman Sal Quintero – General Communication **INFORMATION**
3. Consent Calendar **ACTION**
 - a. AB 1671 (Frazier) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: water conveyance system
 - b. SB 1381 (Evans) Food labeling: genetically engineered food
 - c. SB 1017 (Evans) Taxation: oil severance tax law
 - d. AB 1764 (Olsen) School Curriculum: mathematics and computer science
 - e. SB 1200 (Padilla) Public Postsecondary Education: academic standards
 - f. HR 29 (Gomez) Outsourcing Public Services
 - g. AB 2712 (Daly) Hazardous Materials – Orange County Water District
 - h. AB 1827 (Patterson) Cure Periods for Small Businesses
 - i. AB 1758 (Patterson) Professional Licenses – renewal/expiration dates
 - j. AB 2428 (Patterson) “First 5 Years” – Business Tax Exemption
 - k. AB 2164 (Patterson) California Career Advancement Tax Credit
 - l. AB 2519 (Patterson) Tax Credit for Vocational Education
 - m. AB 2165 (Patterson) Department of Consumer Affairs – Licensing
 - n. AB 2030 (Campos) Employees – time off
4. Legislative Report **ACTION**
 - a. John Taylor – Coalition for Medi-Cal Funding & Accountability

Chair’s Report

Adjourn



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Presiding:
Ruth Evans, Chair
Brian Domingos, Vice Chair**

Committee: Government Affairs Council
Chairperson: Ruth Evans
Vice-Chair: Brian Domingos
Meeting Date/Time: March 12, 2014
Meeting Place: Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees: Nick Amendola, Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Ruth Evans, Larry Fortune, Jack Hall, Debbie Hunsaker, Ryan Jacobsen, Cam Maloy, Scott Miller, Lorraine Salazar, Victoria Salisch, Al Smith, John Taylor, Lydia Zabrycki
Committee absences: Walt Plachta, Austin Ewell and Victoria Salisch
Staff: Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 12:08pm.
- **Approval of Minutes**
Debbie Hunsaker moved to approve the Feb. 12th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jack Hall. The motion passed unanimously

1. Assemblyman Henry T. Perea – AB 2686 Reliable Water Supply

Assemblyman Henry Perea presented on his version of the water bond. Currently there are about seven similar bills in the state dealing with revising the water bond for the November 2014 ballot. AB 2686 would reduce the bond from \$11 billion to \$9.25 billion dollars. The goal is to lower the dollar amount to make it more attractive to voters, while keeping funding for water storage projects and Delta sustainability a priority. The biggest difference between AB 2686 and Vidak and Cannella's bill, SB 927, is that AB 2686 keeps funds available for conservancy projects. There's a June 26th deadline to revise the water bond bill, and Perea expects to have meeting with other legislators to consolidate bills and come to an agreement on what goes on the ballot.

Ryan Jacobsen made a motion to support AB 2686 and Jack Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Supervisor Judy Case McNairy

The GAC invited Supervisor Case McNairy to talk about the county's most topical issues. She addressed the Medically Indigent Services Program contract and reassured the council that despite media reports, the county and CRMC will continue to pay for care of indigent patients. There's an upcoming hearing on the case. She also spoke about the progress the county has made regarding retirement and pension. Although 50% of the county's payroll currently goes toward pension costs, changes recently made will reduce that percentage overtime. Case McNairy is on the retirement association board.

3. **Legislative Report**

B. AB 1522 (Gonzalez) Paid Sick Days

Little discussion on this bill, which would allow any employee to start accruing sick days after working seven days on the job.

Ms. Hunsaker made a motion to oppose the bill and Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. S 2016 (Feinstein) California Emergency Drought Relief Act

Senator Dianne Feinstein's Legislative Director, John Watts, conference called into the meeting to explain S 2016. He said it provides flexibility to move water and funding for farmers to address drought damages. \$100 million dollars would be provided from the Department of Interior and \$200 million would come from the Department of Agriculture. Growers could use money for conservancy projects, pumps, etc. Watts says the Senator is sitting down with valley Congressman to hash out the differences in her bill versus theirs. The estimated timeline to have a bill passed in the Senate is mid-April.

Mr. Jacobsen made a motion to write a joint letter to Senator Feinstein and Congressmen Devin Nunes, David Valadao, Kevin McCarthy and Jim Costa, supporting all efforts to move forward, adding that it should address long term water solutions. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. AB 1723 (Nazarian) Employee Wages

Limited discussion on this bill, which would expand the scope of people who could claim restitution for failure to pay minimum wage. Staff opposed the bill because there are already laws in place that address the issue and there's no proof that the current law isn't working.

Lorraine Salazar made a motion to oppose the bill and Larry Fortune seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. AB 2095 (Wagner) Employee Compensation: Itemized Wages

This bill would put employers and employees on equal footing regarding collecting attorney fees and costs if an employer is cleared of wrongdoing and the employee's complaint is found to be in bad faith. It would limit frivolous litigation regarding itemized wage statements for alleged technical violations that have not injured the employee.

Mr. Forture made a motion to support the bill and Mr. Domingos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. AB 2688 (Brown) Employment Violations Good Faith Defense

This bill would protect employers who are trying to act in accordance with the Department of Labor Standards and Enforcement. In regard to wages and working conditions, if an employer seeks written or verbal advice from DLSE and that advice is found to be wrong, the employer can not be punished by civil and criminal penalties, fines and interest.

Mr. Fortune made a motion to support the bill and Cam Maloy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. AB 1634 (Skinner) Occupational Health and Safety Violations

This bill would mandate an employer fix an alleged safety hazard or issue before Cal/OSHA determines anything is “broken.”

Mr. Fortune made a motion to support the bill and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. AB 1693 (Perea) Telephone Rates

This bill would require CPUC to respond to a rate change request from California Independent Telecommunications Companies (Sebastian, Sierra Telephone) within 330 days. If it doesn't the rate request would be automatically granted. Currently, it's taking up to two years for CPUC to respond to requests, which is hampering small phone companies that are waiting on an answer to do improvement projects. Mr. Jacobsen expressed concern that the GAC's support of this bill would give merit for government to increase CPUC staffing, but Ms. Maloy said it wouldn't.

Mr. Fortune made a motion to support the bill and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. AB 1717 (Perea) Prepaid Mobile Services

This bill is the same as AB 300, which the Chamber supported in April of 2013. It would require consumers pay a surcharge on prepaid mobile phones or phone cards for the 911 program. AB 300 was vetoed by Governor Brown because of concerns it would cost the state money. This time around, staff is working with the Governor's office to mitigate those concerns.

Mr. Domingos made a motion to support the bill and Mr. Fortune seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. SB 927 (Vidak, Cannella) Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act

Another one of the seven versions of the water bond. It reduces the bond from \$11 billion to \$9.17 billion, while maintaining \$3 billion for water storage projects and making money available to provide safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Hall made a motion to support this bill and Mr. Fortune seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. HR 3964 (Valadao) Emergency Water Delivery Act

Tal Eslick, Chief of Staff for Congressman Valadao, presented this bill. It would amend the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to ensure that water dedicated to fish and wildlife purposes is replaced and provided to Central Valley Project water contractors by December 31, 2018, addressing long-term federal water regulation issues. He expressed encouragement that Feinstein is meeting with valley congressmen and says all members are dedicated to moving a bill forward. However, he made the distinction that Valadao's bill addresses solutions for the future, while Feinstein's bill throws money at the problem and that relief money goes away as soon as California is not considered to be in an emergency drought.

Mr. Domingos made a motion to support the bill in concept and write a letter to Senator Feinstein and valley Congressmen to encourage a conference committee meeting to provide long-term solutions. Mr. Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

K. HR 4019 (Costa) Drought Relief Act

Ian Lemay, District Director for Congressman Costa, presented this bill. He said it's the House compilation of the Senate bill.

The motion for HR 3964 includes action on this bill.

L. HR 4125, 4126, 4127 (Costa) Water Storage

Mr. Lemay presented these bills and said feasibility studies are being completed to determine whether the projects will move forward. This bill would provide money for water storage at Temperance Flat, San Luis Reservoir and Shasta Dam. Cost of construction would be paid for by the state water bond, federal dollars and water users.

Al Smith made a motion to support the bill and Mr. Fortune seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Evans informed the council that Mayor Ashley Swearengin will be the speaker at the next Eggs and Issues breakfast on Friday, April 4th.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:39pm.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

Supervisor Henry R. Perea – California’s Successful Intercity Passenger Rail Partnership

Description

The State of California is a national model for intercity passenger rail, with the highest ridership of any state in the Amtrak system. Vice-Chair Perea will provide an overview of the joint efforts to protect the states investment and expand this successful system.

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NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 2

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

Fresno City Councilman Sal Quintero

Description

District 5 Councilman, Sal Quintero, will address the GAC regarding general communication and issues at the top of his mind. He's running unopposed for a second term.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM A

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 1671 (Frazier) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Water conveyance system

Source

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

Summary

AB 1671 would give the legislature even more power in the California water war by prohibiting the Department of Water Resources from constructing water facilities as part of a specified water conveyance system unless specifically authorized by the Legislature. It could threaten reliable water supplies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by revising the legislation package of 2009, which sought to advance water system and ecosystem improvements in the Delta.

Background

Under existing law, the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the federal Central Valley Project and the Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Resources Development System, known as the State Water Project, to supply water to persons and entities in the state. Existing law provides for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of water development facilities by the state, including the State Water Project. Under existing law, State Water Project facilities include, among others, the facilities that are specified or authorized by the Legislature as part of the state Central Valley Project. AB 1671 was referred to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife on February 20, 2014. The hearing is scheduled for April 8th.

*The Chamber was asked to oppose this bill no later than March 25th so the issue was emailed to the GAC executive board members, who unanimously opposed AB 1671.

Staff Recommendation

Oppose

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM B

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

SB 1381 (Evans) Food Labeling: genetically engineered food

Source

Summary

SB 1381 would require labels on all foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients. It would consider genetically engineered food without a label “misbranded” and the person responsible would be subject to penalties. The labels would only apply to foods for sale in California, thus creating a hardship for farmers/manufacturers that ship all over the country. Some estimates are that SB 1381 would add \$400 a year to the average family’s grocery bill.

Background

Some common genetically engineered foods are corn, canola oil, cotton seed oil and soybeans. Proponents of this bill think Californians have a right to know whether their food has been genetically modified because some consider it bad for the environment or against their personal beliefs. Opponents say it’s costly and will confuse consumers with a label that lacks content and scientific evidence, and will stigmatize food ingredients that are safe and healthy. SB 1381 passed the Senate Health Committee on March 26 and has been re-referred to Committee on Rules.

Staff Recommendation

Oppose

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM C

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

SB 1017 (Evans) Taxation: oil severance tax law
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Source

Cal Chamber

Summary

This bill would impose an oil and gas severance tax upon any operator, as defined, for the privilege of severing oil or gas from the earth or water in this state for sale, transport, consumption, storage, profit, or use, as provided, at specified rates, calculated as provided. The rate would be 9.5% of the average price per barrel of California oil or 3.5% of the average price per unit of gas. It would be determined and adjusted every six months. The tax would be administered by the State Board of Equalization. The bill would require the board to deposit all tax revenues, penalties, and interest collected into the California Higher Education Fund. It could provide \$1-2 billion in annual revenue to be used in education for lowering tuition, hiring professors and instructional materials, and on maintenance of state parks and recreation. SB 1017 is being called a **job killer** because the cost of the new tax will be passed on to everyone. California oil makes up about 40% of the state’s gas industry.

Background

This is not the first time State Senator Evans has tried to pass a bill to tax the oil industry. California is the fourth largest oil producing state and the only one of all 36 oil producing states that does not impose a severance tax. Cal Chamber says his tax would put the California oil industry at a severe disadvantage.

Staff Recommendation

Oppose

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM D

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 1764 (Olsen) School Curriculum: mathematics and computer science

Source

Cal Chamber

Summary

This bill would create an incentive for more students to take a computer science course in high school by making it possible for a school district to count completion of such a course as a math course that meets one of the student's graduation requirements. For school districts that require more than two math courses, this bill would authorize the governing board to award a student up to one math course credit for successfully completing an approved computer science course. If the student already gets credit for the computer science course in another specified course, it doesn't count twice.

Background

With the growing demand of technology-related jobs, this bill would help introduce students to the possibility of working in the computer science field. By offering it as an acceptable credit for the third year of math, it may encourage more students to enroll in the course. This is one of six computer science education bills being proposed in the state this year.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM E

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

SB 1200 (Padilla) Public Postsecondary Education: academic standards

Source

Cal Chamber

Summary

This bill would create an incentive for more high school students to take a computer science course in high school by requesting that University of California and California State Universities establish uniform standards for high school computer science courses that would be recognized by both systems.

Background

SB 1200 and AB 1764 play hand-in-hand by asking the two California University systems to align recognized computer science courses. This is one of six computer science education bills being proposed in the state legislature this year. With the growing demand of technology-related jobs, this bill aims to help fill the void in the workplace. Entry-level computer-science or computer programmer jobs can be high-paying.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM F

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

HR 29 (Gomez) Outsourcing Public Services

Source

Cal Chamber

Summary

This bill would prohibit or severely limit outsourcing options for government agencies to determine the most appropriate solution to providing efficient and effective public services.

Background

The author of this bill believes handing over public services to private companies puts residents at a disadvantage because of a lack of transparency and accountability. There’s also a concern that outsourcing will leave more workers making less money, bringing down the quality of life for the overall public. Opponents say cities and local jurisdictions should maintain the freedom to make the best financial decisions for their area. Outsourcing can be an essential way to save taxpayer money and the company promising the best rate should be awarded the job. Sometimes the city can provide the best service, other times it’s a private company.

Staff Recommendation

Oppose

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM G

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 2712 (Daly) Hazardous Materials: Orange County Water District

Source

Summary

This bill would provide a clear set of guidelines about how to correct the issue of groundwater contamination. It would involve the state, so that independent districts can't overcharge businesses.

Background

For more than a decade, Orange County Water District (OCWD)—an agency charged with groundwater management uniquely created under its own act--has been side-stepping existing laws regarding contaminated water investigation and cleanup by suing businesses in order to avoid coordination or interaction with state agencies that have actual jurisdiction. In 2004, OCWD hired a contingency law firm to bring three massive cases against past and current Orange County property owners and businesses for alleged groundwater contamination. Yet, many of the sites litigated were already in the cleanup process under plans and procedures approved by state and federal environmental agencies that normally investigate and oversee cleanup, such as CalEPA's Department of Toxic Control Substances (DTSC), local county agency, and the regional water quality control boards. Property owners that had invested millions of dollars on cleanup costs were dragged into court on new legal theories, diverting funding and private resources away from cleanup efforts to pay attorney's fees. Even parties that had received site closure or "no further action" decisions from these environmental agencies were sued by OCWD under unique legal theories. OCWD did not ask the environmental agencies that oversee cleanup of contaminated sites in Orange County to intervene or require faster or better cleanups before it filed its law suits. OCWD did not test the sites before filing suit. OCWD did not ask the site owners to work cooperatively with them to ensure that the drinking water aquifer was being adequately protected before filing suit. In one case, OCWD hired an expert to design cleanup plans without using standard methods that EPA or DTSC would have been required to use, such as considering a range of remedial options and their cost and feasibility. Unless this bill is enacted, there's concern that this water district's actions could set a precedent for the state.

*The GAC was asked to weigh in on this bill by April 2nd. An email went out to the executive board and Ms. Evans, Mr. Domingos, Mr. Smith and Ms. Zabrycki supported the bill, with Mr. Jacobsen undecided because of uncertainty that it had application in our area.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM H

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 1827 (Patterson) Cure Periods for Small Businesses

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would require all agencies under the Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency, when citing a small business of 50 employees or less for a minor violation, to instead provide the business with a period of time, not yet determined, in which to correct the violation before being fined by the agency. The length of curing time is being discussed, but could be around 30-60 days.

Background

Thousands of small businesses are fined for minor violations each year for things like failing to post a sign, paying a fee late, etc. On average, the fines can range from \$25 to hundreds of dollars. California’s excessive amount of business regulations can be very difficult for a small business owner to navigate. Creating a standard across-the-board minor violation curing period would provide relief to small businesses.

* The GAC was asked to weigh in on this bill by April 7th because it was being heard on April 8th. The executive board unanimously supported it and the Chamber has sent a letter to Assemblyman Patterson.

Staff Recommendation

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM I

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 1758 (Patterson) Professional Licenses – renewal/expiration dates

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would amend the Business and Professions Code to allow members of certain professions to pay a pro-rated renewal fee when renewing their licenses for the first time so they aren’t overcharged based on current law that links license renewals to birth dates rather than license issuance dates.

Background

The California Business and Professions Code states that licenses for acupuncturists, dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, midwives, physicians, surgeons, architects, podiatrists, dispensing opticians, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, psychologists, physician assistants, veterinarians and veterinary technicians expire at midnight of the last day of the licensee’s birth month on the second year of their second term. In many cases, the licensee is required to pay a two-year renewal fee. Expiration on the licensee’s birth month is a policy in place to expedite issuance, but it can require some people to renew earlier than others, therefore paying more. For example, a constituent of the 23rd district got her dental hygienist’s license in August of 2013, paying a \$100 eligibility fee. Just two months later, in October, she was required to pay an \$80 renewal fee because her birthday falls in October. By charging licensees a pro-rated amount of the renewal fee based on how many months have elapsed between initial license issuance and their birth date renewal, AB 1758 would even the playing field for licenses in professions that must comply with the birth month renewal policy.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM G

Government Affairs Council

AB 2428 (Patterson) "First 5 Years" – Business Tax Exemption

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would exempt all newly formed businesses from all corporate taxes and franchise taxes and fees for the first five years of being established in the State of California. A newly formed business includes any corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, general partnership, limited liability partnership or sole proprietorship that is formed and registered with the Secretary of State beginning January 1, 2014 or later and does not include a business entity that was formed previously and filed a name change with the Secretary of State.

Background

The Revenue and Taxation Code currently imposes a \$800 minimum franchise tax on small businesses, a franchise fee ranging from \$900-\$11,790 on limited liability companies and taxes corporate income at 8.84%. California is consistently ranked as one of the worst states to do business because of its high taxes and burdensome regulations. This bill would give new businesses enough time to get on their feet before being hit with tax and franchise fees, which could ultimately expand job opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM K

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 2164 (Patterson) California Career Advancement Tax Credit

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would institute a tax credit for businesses in an amount equal to \$2,500 or 50% of the costs incurred per employee (whichever is less) for education and training provided to employees to maintain or improve a skill required for the trade or business and education, and training provided to employees in order to comply with requirements imposed by new laws or regulations enacted by the Federal Government or the State of California.

Background

California currently doesn't offer any tax credits for job training. With changing technology, businesses that want to invest in training sometimes don't because of the cost. This bill would help make training more affordable and businesses more competitive with skilled employees.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM L

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 2519 (Patterson) Tax Credit for Vocational Education

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would institute a tax credit in an amount equal to 50% of the costs paid or incurred by a taxpayer during the taxable year for education and training obtained at a vocational institution for job training and career advancement studies.

Background

Existing law provides no tax credits for those who choose to attend a vocational institution for higher education. The Federal Government does offer two tax credits for higher education, The American Opportunity credit and the Lifetime Learning credit. While UC’s and CSU’s are impacted, many careers don’t require a four-year degree. Vocational education may serve just as well for professions like auto mechanics, vocational nurses and pharmacy technicians. If California incentivizes attendance at vocational schools, it could help meet current job market demands and get people on a faster path to entering their career field.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM M

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 2165 (Patterson) Department of Consumer Affairs - Licensing

Source

Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Summary

This bill would add section 101.8 to the Business and Professions Code to require each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to review completed applications and issue licenses within 45 days from the date of application. It also requires that each exam is offered a minimum of six times per year.

Background

DCA established minimum qualifications and levels of competency for licensure in more than 100 business and 200 professional categories including nursing, contractors, cosmetologists, automotive repair facilities and insurance agents. Professional and vocational applicants are currently experiencing extraordinary delays with application processing times. Additionally, several professions do not allow for testing upon graduation from accredited schools. They first must process the application and then authorize the applicant to test; a process that can take up for three months before the applicant is even cleared to take the exam. There are additional wait times for taking the exam, receiving exam results and issuance of the license, leaving some applicants unemployed for six months while waiting for the process to be completed. This bill aims to ensure applicants are not delayed from starting their careers by creating a 45 day maximum response deadline and making testing available within that 45 days.

Staff Recommendation

Support

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM N

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

AB 2030 (Campos) Employees – time off
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Source

California Restaurant Association

Summary

This bill would prohibit an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee taking time off for the purpose of participating in school or daycare activities of their child, grandchild or a child of which the employee has custody, without loss of pay. The bill would prohibit an employee from being required to use existing vacation, personal leave, or compensatory time off for those purposes, unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement entered into before January 1, 2015.

Background

This bill would expand provisions of the Family School Partnership Act, a California law that allows parents, grandparents and guardians to take time off from work to participate in their children's school or child care activities. The Act allows the affected employee to use existing vacation time, personal leave or compensatory time off for such activities or time off without pay if permitted by the employer. AB 2030 would eliminate the requirement that the affected employee utilize existing leave unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement entered into before January 1, 2015 and prohibits the entitlement of employees to the bill's provisions from being diminished by a collective bargaining agreement agreed to on or after January 1, 2015. The employee would be allowed to take off up to 40 hours each year, not exceeding eight hours in any calendar month of the year. AB 2030 is in committee but a hearing has been postponed.

Staff Recommendation

Oppose

LEGISLATIVE REPORT**ITEM A**

Government Affairs Council

April 9, 2014

John Taylor – Coalition for Medi-Cal Funding & Accountability**Source**

Californians United for Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability

Summary

This November 2014 measure would make an existing law, set to expire in 2017, permanent. It unlocks billions of dollars a year in new federal funding for health care for children and seniors in California.

Background

In 2013, the legislature unanimously agreed to tap into about \$3 billion in federal funding for health care for seniors and children. Hospitals agreed to pay a fee to receive the federal funding. The money must be spent to provide health care services to children and resources for Medi-Cal to serve elderly and low-income Californians. Without funding, the money would come from privately insured patients. Those with private insurance shouldn't have their premiums increased to subsidize Medi-Cal when federal money is available to help cover the cost. Funding will also help prevent closures or cutbacks in local hospitals and emergency rooms. Hospitals and health care providers across the state have joined together to sponsor this measure, which protects services for children and seniors. There is no organized opposition.

Staff Recommendation

Support