



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brad Mitzelfelt *First District*
Paul Biane *Second District*
Neil Derry..... *Third District*
Gary Ovitt, Chair..... *Fourth District*
Josie Gonzales, Vice-Chair *Fifth District*

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Mike Feuer
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 935 (Feuer)** - As Amended 4/22/09 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Feuer:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 935 (Feuer). AB 935 would appropriate \$1.6 million from the Federal Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account to the California Department of Aging for local ombudsman programs, to be used before the end of the 2009-10 fiscal year.

As you know, the local Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs have received the same base funding since 1986. This amount was intended to be the base operating budget for the cost of maintenance of operation and supportive resources for investigative fieldwork. Last year, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed \$3.8 million in funding for the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, representing about half their funding.

Although the San Bernardino County Ombudsman has found money from other sources this year to support the 4.75 paid staff positions that currently exist in the Ombudsman Program, that staffing level is well below the 2003-2004 staffing levels of 7 full time positions. In 2003-2004, there were significantly fewer facilities requiring coverage. Although the number of skilled nursing facilities remains about the same, the number of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly has almost doubled. San Bernardino County became one of the fastest growing areas in the nation for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly licensure during this period.

Continuing funding shortfalls will have a devastating impact on the Ombudsman if the funding situation continues to deteriorate. For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors joins with the County Welfare Directors Association in support of AB 935. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, the County's Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.