



## Federal Legislative Activities Week of May 23, 2016

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of May 23, 2016, below.

### Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

#### **Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:00 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 4889](#) - Kelsey Smith Act. This bill requires mobile service providers to provide call location information to law enforcement when the device has been used to call 911 for emergency assistance or if the device is "reasonably believed to be in the possession" of an individual involved in an "emergency situation" involving the risk of death or serious physical harm. In 2007, Kelsey Smith was abducted from a parking lot in Kansas. While a search for her began immediately, law enforcement encountered difficulty in obtaining location information from her cell phone provider. After four days of searching, police located her body within 45 minutes of receiving the device location data. The 18-year-old had been murdered the night she was abducted.

[H.R. 4167](#) - Kari's Law Act of 2016. This bill requires all multiline telephone systems to be able to dial 911 without the need to dial any additional digit, code, prefix or postfix, even if such a code is required for making other phone calls. The measure also forbids the installation of a system without the ability to directly dial 911. On Dec. 1, 2013, Kari Rene Hunt was murdered by her estranged husband, whom she was intending to divorce. She agreed to meet him at a local motel to leave their children with him for a short visit while he was in town. At the meeting, her husband ambushed her in the motel room and cornered her in the bathroom. During the struggle, Kari's daughter, then 9 years old, attempted to dial 911 from the room phone. However, the phones required the user to dial "9" before dialing "911" and she was unable to reach a 911 dispatcher.

[H.R. 3998](#) - Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act. This bill requires all communications providers – including radio, television and telephone providers – to have the ability to access relevant disaster-stricken areas during emergencies. Current law only provides access to "telecommunications services."

[S. 184](#) - Native American Children's Safety Act. This bill requires tribal social services agencies to complete background checks before foster care placements of children are ordered in Native American tribal court proceedings, and it bars placement if the background check reveals a federal, state or tribal crime such as felony child neglect or abuse.

[H.R. 2460](#) – Veterans Adult Day Health Care Services. The bill would add a provision of adult day health care services for veterans. This bill requires the Veterans Affairs Department to enter into an agreement or a contract with each state to pay for adult day health care for a veteran eligible for, but not receiving, nursing home care. Under the measure, the veteran must either need the care specifically for a service-connected disability or have a service-connected disability rated 70% or more.

[H.R. 3715](#) - Final Farewell Act of 2016. This bill directs the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to permit interments, funerals, memorial services and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries

and state cemeteries receiving grants from the VA during certain weekends, if requested by the next-of-kin of the veteran. The requirement would apply to weekends other than federal holiday weekends.

[H.R. 3989](#) - Support Our Military Caregivers Act. The measure allows applicants to be granted an independent external review of a denied caregiver application or the level of assistance, and it requires the VA to issue directives on the eligibility process for the family caregiver program. It also further limits VA bonuses over a five-year period.

[H.R. 5229](#) - Improving Transition Programs for All Veterans Act. This bill requires the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to evaluate current programs to assist veterans in their transition to civilian life, with a particular emphasis on female veterans. The study, which must be conducted with the Defense and Labor departments, must look at the "unique challenges" faced by female veterans.

[H.R. 5286](#) - VA Construction and Lease Authorization, Health, and Benefits Enhancement Act. The measure includes provisions to ensure that the VA's West Los Angeles campus is used to benefit veterans, including those who are homeless, and establishes a national center for research, diagnosis and treatment of exposure to toxic substance-related health conditions of veterans' descendants. The cost of these program expansions is offset by a "rounding down" of the cost-of-living adjustment for veterans disability compensation, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates would reduce direct spending by \$1.6 billion over 10 years

## **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM | House Appropriations Committee Mark Up: FY 2017 CJS and THUD Appropriations. Please find a link to the Mark Ups and draft bill language [here](#).

2 PM | House Ways and Means Committee Mark Up: To Mark Up Commonsense Proposals to Advance Hospital Reforms and Improve TANF, including the bills below. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

[H.R. 5273](#), Helping Hospitals Improve Patient Care Act of 2016. Advancing greater access, increased choices, and improved health care quality.

[H.R. 2952](#), Improving Employment Outcomes of TANF Recipients Act. Measuring state success in helping TANF recipients find a job and build a successful career.

[H.R. 5169](#), What Works to Move Welfare Recipients Into Jobs Act. Promoting proven local solutions that help more people get back to work.

2:15 PM | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing on Pending Legislation. Click [here](#) to view legislation to be considered.

2:30 PM | Senate Environment & Public Works Subcommittee Hearing: to examine the implementation of the definition of the Waters of the United States.

## **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> & the Balance of the Week**

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 p.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

[H.R. 897](#) - Zika Vector Control Act. This bill temporarily modifies the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA; PL 80-104) to prohibit the EPA or a state government from requiring a permit for the use of registered pesticides near navigable waters. It also temporarily modifies the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (PL 80-845) to prohibit the EPA and states from requiring permits

for the point source use of a pesticide, or the residue resulting from the use of a pesticide, that is registered under FIFRA.

[H.R. 5055](#) - Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. This bill temporarily modifies the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA; PL 80-104) to prohibit the EPA or a state government from requiring a permit for the use of registered pesticides near navigable waters. It also temporarily modifies the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (PL 80-845) to prohibit the EPA and states from requiring permits for the point source use of a pesticide, or the residue resulting from the use of a pesticide, that is registered under FIFRA.

House Amendment to [S. 2012](#) - Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski / Energy and Commerce Committee / Natural Resources Committee). It is expected that the recommended rule will, upon its adoption, automatically replace the Senate-passed text with a House amendment that comprises 37 separate measures that previously passed the House.