



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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The Week in Washington D.C. – February 25, 2013

Congress has returned from the President's Week Recess and we will soon learn if there is any progress in avoiding sequestration. Sequester cuts are scheduled to begin March 1 and there has been little headway made between Capitol Hill and the Administration. Under current law, the U.S. Department of Defense will face a 7.3 percent cut across all programs, while non-defense agencies will face a 5.1 percent cut to programs. Since sequestration requires across-the-board cuts to all programs, federal agencies do not have flexibility in implementing cuts, meaning the reductions would come evenly from every account—including from critical programs and accounts.

Below you will find a listing of federal legislative activities that, in addition to sequestration discussions, the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of February 25, 2013.

House Floor Action

Wednesday - Friday, February 27-28, 2013

Legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules:

S. RES. 7 – *House amendment to S 47, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. The bill would consolidate and reauthorize grants to states, law enforcement and nonprofit service organizations to provide assistance to victims of domestic abuse and investigate crimes of domestic violence. The measure authorizes \$35 million per year through 2018 for transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing, and for victims for whom emergency shelter services are unavailable or insufficient. Congress failed to reauthorize VAWA last year. The Rules Committee is expected to recommend a closed rule prohibiting amendments.*

House Hearings

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Putting America Back to Work: Reforming the Nation's Workforce Investment System– Education and Workforce Committee| Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce| 10 AM EST. Education and the Workforce Committee Republicans, led by Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC), today released a [comprehensive proposal](#) to reform federal job training and employment assistance. View the live webcast [here](#).

State Forest Management: A Model for Promoting Healthy Forests, Rural Schools and Jobs – Natural Resources Committee| Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation| 10 AM EST. The focus of this hearing is on the success of these forest lands and how the states, unlike their federal neighbor, are able to sustainably manage their forests for a number of benefits, including; improved forest health, reduced risk of wildfire, recreation, wildlife habitat, job creation and revenue generation. The four federal land management agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service) manage over 600 million acres of land or nearly one-third of the United States. The Forest Service alone manages 193 million acres, covering eight percent of the land area of

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.

the United States. Many states own forest lands that are sustainably managed to provide revenues for a number of purposes, including education and infrastructure. Active forest management not only provides these much-needed revenues but also reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improves forest health and species habitat. View the live webcast [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2014 – Committee on Financial Services |The Financial Services Committee will meet to adopt its budget views and estimates for the 113th Congress | 10 AM EST. The Congressional Budget Act require each standing committee to submit to the Committee on the Budget not later than six weeks after the President submits his budget in February (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year that are within its jurisdiction or function; and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year. The President is required under federal budget law to submit his budget to Congress by the first Monday in February. To date, the President has not submitted a budget. Despite the President's failure to follow the law, the Committee intends to proceed with developing and passing a budget resolution for fiscal year 2014 as it is required to do under the federal budget statutes. To that end, it has requested views and estimates from the standing committees, including the Committee on Financial Services, on programs, agencies, and other outlays within this committee's jurisdiction by no later than March 1, 2013.

Budget Hearing – Committee on Appropriations| Government Accountability Office| 10 AM EST. View the live webcast [here](#).

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Electronic Health Record U-Turn: Are VA and DoD Headed in the Wrong Direction? – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs| 9:15 AM EST.

Oversight Hearing - United States Army Corps of Engineers – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies| Committee on Appropriations| 10 AM EST.

Implementation of the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act: One Year Later – House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure | Subcommittee on Aviation| 10:30 AM EST. [Hearing Summary](#). View the live webcast [here](#).

Fostering Innovation to Fight Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Health Care – Committee on Energy and Commerce | Subcommittee on Health | 10:15 AM EST. [Hearing Summary](#). View the live webcast [here](#).

Increasing Adoptions from Foster Care –Committee on Ways and Means | 2:00 PM EST. The hearing will review successful efforts to increase adoptions of children from foster care. Leaders of several private organizations achieving significant success are expected to testify about their programs, as well as their views on reauthorizing the Adoption Incentives

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Waiving Work Requirements in the TANF Program –Committee on Ways and Means | Subcommittee on Human Resources| 9:00 AM EST. On July 12, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued an Information Memorandum in which they announced that the Secretary would begin allowing States to apply for a waiver of the TANF work requirements as part of a demonstration project related to the employment goals of the TANF program. No such waivers had previously been granted since the TANF program was created in 1996, nor had the Obama Administration indicated it was contemplating such a change. On September 20, 2012, the House of Representatives approved H.J. Res. 118, a resolution disapproving of the HHS waiver memorandum by a 250 to 164 vote. The TANF program is currently authorized through March 27, 2013.

Joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to receive Legislative Presentation of Multiple Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) –Committee on Veterans' Affairs | 10:00 AM EST.