

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND HILDA SOLIS

December 18, 2018

Defending the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided crucial health care and consumer protection for millions of residents throughout Los Angeles County and the nation. Notably, in 2012, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the ACA and the individual mandate as an exercise of the United States (U.S.) Congress' power to levy taxes. However, on December 14, 2018, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor ruled that following the repeal of the tax penalty in 2017, the individual mandate could no longer be sustained, and thus the entire ACA must be struck down as unconstitutional. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has promised to appeal this decision, which would also eliminate protection for those with pre-existing conditions and hundreds of billions of dollars in federal assistance to expand state Medicaid programs.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to the California Attorney General Xavier Becerra expressing support for his efforts

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

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to oppose the federal ruling that declared the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional; and

2. Instruct County Counsel to monitor any legal action aimed at appealing the decision, and to file and/or join in as amicus or as a plaintiff in litigation, as deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

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(HS)

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