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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Justice for Military Sexual Assault Victims and MAVNI Program Restoration

Dear Representative Carbajal,

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors would like to state our support on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Veteran's Advisory Commission on Stopping the Deportation of Veterans and Restoration of the MANVI Program, and Justice for Military Sexual Assault Victims.

The Veteran's Advisory Commission urges legislation that removes the military entirely from handling sexual assault claims, allowing local civilian law enforcement agencies to handle such claims. Amendment of H.R.4104, Section 2(d), removing the military entirely from handling claims of sexual assault and instead be referred to local civilian law enforcement would allow for a non-biased justice for sexual assault victims.

The Commission also advised the Board of Supervisors to stop the deportation of veterans and restore the MAVNI Program that was created in 2008. The Board supports legislation that would prevent the deportation of veterans who are permanent legal residents who have not been charged with a felony and instruct the military to honor all existing MAVNI contracts by fast-tracking their citizenship for active duty military personnel and veterans.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Principle that specifically states that the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance safety net services that protect the most vulnerable within a community. This includes services for various populations in the community and the County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. During the September 13, 2021 Legislative Program Committee meeting, the committee recommended support for these matters and recommended consideration from the full Board of Supervisors.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or jmcginty@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Hartmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joan Hartmann, Vice-Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: Bob Handy, Chair, Veteran's Advisory Commission
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer