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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

June 22, 2021

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

Re: AB 941 (Bennett & Rivas) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors would like to state our support for AB 941 and including funding for farmworker resource centers in the 2021-22 Budget Act. This funding will provide State support for select counties to better support the needs and rights of these essential workers by establishing county level resource centers to serve their farmworker communities.

AB 941 requires the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to establish a grant program for counties to establish farmworker resource centers that provide farmworkers and their families with services related to, among other things, education, housing, payroll and wage rights, and health and human services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the disparities and vulnerabilities that our agricultural workers experience. Funding this grant program within the Department of Community Services and Development would give the County of Santa Barbara and many other counties the opportunity to establish a successful farmworker resource center.

In 2017, grassroots farmworker organizations joined with a group of progressive growers and the County of Ventura to create the Farmworker Resource Program. As a first-of-its-kind program, housed within the County's Human Services Agency, its intention is to uplift working conditions for farmworkers in the agricultural industry. This program helps farmworkers learn about wage and hour laws, health and safety laws, and other legal rights, while also assisting farmworkers in navigating public agencies.

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.

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](mailto:jmcginty@countyofsb.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Nelson, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Robert Rivas, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors