

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



**From:** Whitney Rush <whit.rush@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 9:27 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** WEB Program Support

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Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

Whether or not you have children of your own, you all have parents. Parents who raised their kids in a country woefully inadequate in family support from the very beginning. However, those who embarked on this parenthood journey in our beautiful County in the past 22 years have had the enormous benefit of the WEB program. The WEB program provides truly foundational support as we all seek to raise the best people. Support that benefits not just the mother but the partner, the baby and the entire village that is caring for that family. To be handed a newborn and shown the door is a gross oversight and injustice, however Santa Barbara County and the WEB program serve as a small but mighty beacon in to how a community-based organization can change the course of parenthood, can change maternal health outcomes, and can create a positive postnatal experience to support short and long-term health of mom, baby and partner.

Nothing trumps an in-home visit from a trained nurse and lactation consultant. This is not something that can be simply Googled and fixed. There are nuances and infinite iterations of what's normal, what's not, how is baby's health, how is the parents' mental health, what's working with breastfeeding, what's not. The RN's and LC's provided by WEB truly bridge a horrifying gap in this country's healthcare. It makes me proud to be a Santa Barbaran to have a service like WEB and to tell new families to come here and receive this level of support.

We had our first baby in July 2020. Covid was rocking the world and trust me, a Zoom lactation consultation is not the same as an in-person visit. To have an LC come into your home, see you at an incredibly vulnerable moment and assist in ways you didn't even know you needed help is beyond compare. WEB's services maintain a high level of care with talented and resourceful RNs and LCs who meet families where they are at, free of judgement and free of barriers. WEB does this all while embracing each families unique cultural context, value system, socio-economic background and level of familial support. WEB truly serves all.

It would be a true stain on this County's values to let the WEB program disappear due to lack of funding. This program, in its current form, must continue. It must continue for the families of this county, for the grandparents, aunts and uncles who want to see their loved ones thrive, for the employers and employees of this County who want to know that their colleagues are in good hands, and for the people of this state and country to see an organization shine on what is truly life's greatest journey.

We are looking to you to fund this program long-term and ensure this service continues for all of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Whitney Rush