

DAS WILLIAMS

First District

GREGG HART

Second District

JOAN HARTMANN

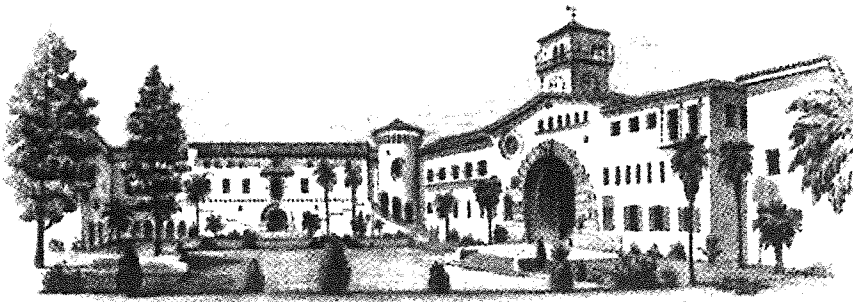
Third District, Vice Chair

BOB NELSON

Fourth District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Senator Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 941 (Bennett & Rivas) - SUPPORT

Honorable Senator Melissa Hurtado,

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. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Nelson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Nelson, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Robert Rivas, 30th 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