RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-181

MEETING: May 6, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter Supporting SB 997 - California Fund for Senior Citizens

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Letter Supporting Senate Bill 997 - California Fund for Senior Citizens. Under the Personal Income Tax Law, taxpayers are allowed to contribute amounts in excess of their tax liability for the support of the California Fund for Senior Citizens. The total minimum collected must exceed $250,000 in a tax year in order for the California Fund for Senior Citizens to receive any contributions. Senate Bill (SB) 997 would eliminate the requirement that these contributions reach the minimum contribution amount.

The California Senior Legislature (a volunteer board that advocates for legislation benefiting seniors) receives its primary funding from the California Fund for Senior Citizens. In recent years the minimum $250,000 in contributions has not been met and unless this minimum requirement is eliminated, the California Senior Legislature will in all likelihood cease to exist.

Mariposa County is represented on the California Senior Legislature by a representative through our local Area 12 Agency on Aging.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has supported legislation that benefits the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letter of support, which may not carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
SB 997 CA Fund for Senior Citizens (DOCX)
SB 997 Fact Sheet and Bill Language (PDF)
CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
May 6, 2014

Honorable Mike Morrell  
California State Senator  
State Capitol Room 3056  
Sacramento, California  95814

Re: California Fund for Senior Citizens

Dear Senator Morrell:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports SB 997 a bill that will remove the minimum voluntary contribution requirement of $250,000 for the California Fund for Senior Citizens. The California Fund for Senior Citizens is the main funding source for the California Senior Legislature (CSL), which is an important advocate for our seniors. Without this funding it may become necessary for the CSL to close down.

The CSL is a volunteer body that meets quarterly to propose State and Federal legislation that benefits and ultimately protects the livelihoods of our seniors. With Californians living longer lives and our senior population increasing, it is important to have an organization such as the CSL that will bring the concerns of our seniors to the attention of our elected legislators.

Thank you for sponsoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

KEVIN CANN  
Chairman

CC:  Senator Berryhill  
California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Area 12 Agency on Aging

Support – SB 997