

# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · (209) 966-3222



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-547**

MEETING: November 24, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter Urging Rejection of Reduction to SHIPS

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter Urging Rejection of the Proposed Reduction to Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPS) and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter. The Senate Appropriations Committee has proposed a 42-percent reduction in funding for SHIPS and congressional leaders will consider retaining this reduction on December 7, 2015. This funding is critical to maintaining the services provided by the Area 12 Agency on Agency through the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) in assisting our elderly citizens with making important decisions on Medicare insurance and prescription plans.

Attached is a letter from the Area 12 Agency on Aging as well as the draft letter that provides additional information on this matter.

If approved, in addition to sending this letter to Senator Boxer the letter will also be mailed to Senator Feinstein and Congress Member Tom McClintock.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has routinely approved letters on matters that could have an effect on the citizens of Mariposa County.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve the letter. Members of the Board of Supervisors may write their own letters on the matter, which may carry the weight of a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**HICAP Funding Letter 2015 (PDF)**  
**Reject Proposed Reduction to SHIPS 2015 (DOCX)**

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Mary Hodson, CAO 11/18/2015

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

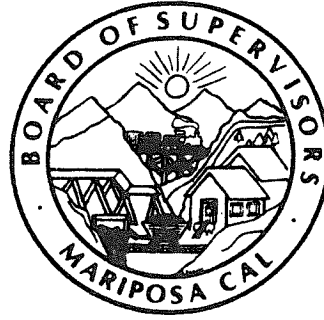
**MOVER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**AYES:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, John Carrier

**EXCUSED:** Kevin Cann

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE  
District 2 ..... MERLIN JONES  
District 3 ..... MARSHALL LONG  
District 4 ..... KEVIN CANN  
District 5 ..... JOHN CARRIER

MARY HODSON  
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE  
Clerk of the Board

P. O. Box 784  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3222  
(800) 736-1252

Fax (209) 966-5147

[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

November 24, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

RE: Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPS)

Dear Senator Boxer:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges you to reject the proposed cut in Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPS). In July 2015, the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed a forty-two percent (42%) cut in funding for SHIPS and the Senate will soon be considering retaining this reduction.

This proposed funding reduction comes at a critical time when an increasing number of citizens are becoming Medicare eligible and need assistance navigating through the complex prescription drug plans, and Medicare Advantage plans and supplements. A reduction of this magnitude will greatly erode the ability of Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Programs (HICAP) to assist our vulnerable senior citizens in making informed decisions.

Mariposa County's local HICAP, Area 12 Agency on Agency, has assisted a little over 2,500 senior citizens in our five county rural area (Mariposa, Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, and Alpine) and saved them a little over one-million dollars. These savings were realized through lowering monthly premiums, Medicare Savings Plans, correcting billing errors, appeals and supplemental insurance assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for keeping the well-being of our elderly citizens at the forefront by rejecting the proposed reduction to SHIPS.

Sincerely,

MERLIN JONES  
Chairman

MJ/mbh

cc: Area 12 Agency on Aging  
National Association of Counties