

CSAC Policy Brief

Protect California's Safety Net: H.R. 1

Overview

The **California State Association of Counties (CSAC)** urges Congress to reject provisions within **H.R. 1, the Limit, Save, Grow Act**, that undermine California's local safety-net infrastructure and shift unfunded mandates to counties. Counties are the direct administrators of core health and human service programs that protect millions of Californians.

Background

Counties serve as the **front-line service providers** for state and federal programs including:

- **Medi-Cal (Medicaid)**
- **CalFresh (SNAP)**
- **Child Welfare and Foster Care**
- **Homeless Assistance and Emergency Housing**
- **Public Health Preparedness and Behavioral Health Services**

H.R. 1 proposes deep federal funding reductions that would erode these programs' capacity and stability. The result would be **increased caseloads, delayed reimbursements, and service gaps** that disproportionately impact vulnerable residents, rural communities, and local economies.

CSAC Key Concerns

- **Cost Shifts to Counties:** Reductions in federal allocations transfer the fiscal burden to local governments already managing pandemic recovery and rising service demands.

- **Impact on Vulnerable Populations:** Any cuts to social safety-net funding risk destabilizing healthcare access, food security, and housing assistance for low-income families.
- **Economic Ripple Effects:** Counties support nearly one-quarter of California’s workforce through safety-net and public health programs; federal cuts threaten local employment and revenue stability.
- **Program Fragmentation:** Rapid changes to federal funding streams jeopardize collaborative state-county systems designed to meet outcome-based performance goals.

CSAC Recommendations

1. **Reject federal proposals** in H.R. 1 that reduce funding for critical county-administered programs.
2. **Maintain strong federal-state-county partnerships** with consistent cost-sharing structures.
3. **Support discretionary and targeted grants** that sustain local innovation in service delivery.
4. **Preserve long-term funding commitments** aligned with California’s ongoing recovery and equity initiatives.

Conclusion

Protecting California’s safety net requires consistent and adequate federal investment. Counties are uniquely positioned to deliver essential human services efficiently and equitably—but only with stable, predictable funding. CSAC continues to advocate in Washington for federal legislation that strengthens, rather than weakens, California’s statewide safety-net system.

Prepared by:

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Legislative Affairs Division