



Interim Policy Resolutions

Post Board Action



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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

NO RESOLUTIONS

1
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1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

2
3 **Resolution Urging and Requesting the United States Congress to Provide for Free Burial of Spouses**
4 **and Dependents of Veterans at all Veterans Cemeteries**

5
6 **Issue:** Spouses and dependents of veterans are interred for free at national veterans cemeteries but state,
7 territorial, and tribal governments frequently charge for such burial.

8
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges and requests the United States
10 Congress to fund the expenses of burial of spouses and dependents of veterans at cemeteries which are
11 operated by state, territorial and tribal governments and which receive funds from the Veterans Cemetery
12 Grants Program.

13
14 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

15
16 **Resolution Supporting the Promotion of the Arts and Culture in America’s Counties**

17
18 **Issue:** Counties, especially rural counties, underutilize the arts and culture as an economic engine to help
19 with job growth, increased economic activity and enhanced revenue collection.

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports increased funding for the
22 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the
23 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the arts education program within the Department
24 of Education to provide counties with additional resources to develop and expand cultural resources in
25 their counties.

26
27 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

28
29 **Resolution on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**

30
31 **Issue:** Support the direct allocation of funding and technical assistance resources to aid local governments
32 in complying with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Final Rule and in completing the
33 Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) planning process.

34
35 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Department
36 of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide dedicated resources to enhance the ability of
37 counties and local governments to comply with HUD’s AFFH Final Rule and complete the required AFH
38 planning process, including but not limited to: increased flexibility to utilize Community Development
39 Block Grant (CDBG) funds beyond existing statutory and regulatory caps for fair housing planning and
40 implementation; and dedicated funds for local governments to offset the increased costs associated with
41 undergoing the mandated AFH planning process. In addition, HUD is urged to provide enhanced
42 technical assistance to counties and local governments to aid them in developing comprehensive AFHs,
43 such as best practice guides, toolkits and sample agreements for regional or multi-jurisdictional
44 collaboration, fair housing program implementation guidance, and specialized assistance for public
45 housing authorities.

1 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

2

3 **Resolution on FY 2017 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban**
4 **Development**

5

6 **Issue:** Support FY 2017 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
7 (HUD).

8

9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following
10 levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the
11 FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill: no
12 less than \$3.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less than
13 \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); \$2.6 billion for
14 Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant
15 program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy
16 contracts; full funding for existing Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) project-based and tenant-based rental
17 assistance contracts, full funding for administrative fees under existing administrative fee methodology to
18 cover the costs of administering the program, \$75 million for HUD Veterans Affairs supportive Housing
19 Vouchers and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

20

21 In addition, NACo does not support the imposition of a funding threshold to receive HOME Investment
22 Partnerships program funds directly or the revision of “grandfathering” provisions that would remove
23 participating jurisdictions from future funding eligibility.

24

25 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

1 **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **Resolution Supporting Full Funding of the 2002 Help America Vote Act**

4
5 **Issue:** States have used or obligated funds appropriated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA)
6 to implement the requirements of the law and to improve the administration of elections. However,
7 fulfilling the original intention of HAVA and fully funding the law is necessary to ensure states have the
8 financial resources they need to sustain the improvements they have made since 2002.

9
10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund the
11 requirements payments of the Help America Vote Act. These funds are allocated to states to continuously
12 upgrade voting systems, register voters in statewide voter registration databases, provide provisional
13 voting options, improve voter accessibility, and implement other improvements to the administration of
14 elections.

15
16 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

1 **HEALTH**

2
3 **Resolution Supporting the Restoring the Partnerships for County Health Care Costs Act of 2015**
4 **(H.R. 4201)**

5
6 **Issue:** Support the efforts to ease the burden of inmate medical costs on local governments.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to not only pass
9 legislation to improve the current situation and ease the burden put on local governments caused by the
10 expanding cost of medical services that are provided to inmates in public institutions, but to also
11 ultimately cover all inmate medical costs under Medicare and Medicaid.

12
13 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

14
15 **Resolution Urging CMS to Enhance Medicaid Flexibility for Justice-Involved Populations**

16
17 **Issue:** Section 1905 of the Social Security Act prohibits Medicaid from paying for inmates’ care while in
18 county facilities even while they are pre-trial and presumed innocent—which leads to uncoordinated
19 systems of care for inmates, decreased health outcomes, and increased recidivism rates.

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Centers for Medicare and
22 Medicaid Services (CMS) to utilize all necessary measures, including waivers, to enhance flexibility
23 within the Medicaid program to improve the continuity of health care for justice-involved individuals.

24
25 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

26
27 **Resolution Urging CMS to Modify Proposed Regulation on Medicaid Managed Care**

28
29 **Issue:** Language in a proposed rule that would overhaul the Medicaid managed care program would limit
30 the ability of states to make supplemental payments to providers.

31
32 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Centers for Medicare and
33 Medicaid Services (CMS) to preserve the ability of states to provide supplemental support to targeted
34 local government providers for services provided to Medicaid managed care enrollees.

35
36 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2
3 **Resolution Supporting Age Appropriate Visitation for Out of State Youth**

4
5 **Issue:** Visitation of older out-of-county foster youth through computer technology.

6
7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislation to allow child
8 welfare staff to conduct visits through computer technology, rather than in-person, with older youth (over
9 18 years of age) in extended foster care who are attending college out of state or connecting with relatives.

10
11 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

12
13 **Resolution to Repeal and Reform the Social Security COLA Formula**

14
15 **Issue:** The Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Formula, which is designed to reflect
16 increases in the cost of living, will not increase in 2016.

17
18 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to repeal and reform the
19 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Formula to ensure that the program properly accounts
20 for the true cost of living of Social Security Benefits recipients – many of whom rely solely on these
21 benefits to provide for their everyday needs – in 2016 and beyond.

22
23 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

1 **JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

2
3 **Resolution to modify the “Individual Assistance” Criteria used by the Federal Emergency**
4 **Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that Rural Residents are treated in a Fair and Equitable**
5 **Manner**
6

7 **Issue:** Current FEMA criteria requiring “concentration of damage” for access to Individual Assistance
8 Programs and its impact on rural residents.

9
10 **Adopted Policy:** FEMA and/or Congress should take immediate action to modify existing “concentration
11 of damage” criteria for Individual Assistance Programs, so that these criteria do not unjustly deny rural
12 residents critically needed access to Individual Assistance Programs.

13
14 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

15
16 **Resolution on the 2017 Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program**
17

18 **Issue:** County priorities in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congressional committees of
21 jurisdiction to include local and state stakeholders in the process of drafting legislation to craft an
22 affordable and sustainable reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, the current
23 authorization of which is set to expire in 2017. NACo’s positions on the following issues are as follows:
24

- 25 • Rates – should be publicly disclosed and affordable. Section 205 (Pre-FIRM) subsidies should be
26 applied to all categories of property;
- 27 • Program Administration – Write Your Own (WYO) payments must be capped, and risk should be
28 spread by increasing the pool of policyholders;
- 29 • HFIAA – key provisions from the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (P.L. 113-89),
30 namely grandfathering, premium increase caps and the reserve fund set-aside should be retained,
31 and the 1 percent limit on premium to coverage ratio should be changed to a hard cap;
- 32 • Mapping – should be transparent and fair to local communities, appeal caps must be lifted and a
33 method to pay for elevations should be developed;
- 34 • Mitigation – funding for mitigation should be increased, and NFIP premiums should be allowed to
35 count as community and homeowner mitigation efforts;
- 36 • Consumer Protection – a policy review process should be created, Flood Insurance Advocates
37 should be regionalized, and Force-Placing provisions should be amended to keep policyholders in
38 NFIP instead of surplus line.

39
40 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

41
42 **Resolution Supporting Legislation to Limit FEMA’s Deobligation of Public Assistance Funds from**
43 **Eligible Applicants**
44

45 **Issue:** Since 2010, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has sought to recover and
46 deobligate previously-approved federal disaster recovery funds distributed to local governments.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would
2 preclude FEMA from immediately rescinding previously obligated funds from the grantee (the state),
3 once the subgrantee (local recipient/county) has stated its intent to appeal FEMA’s decision in a timely
4 fashion. NACo also supports legislation (H.R. 1471), which establishes a 3-year statute of limitation on
5 deobligating Public Assistance funds from the date a project is certified complete by the state (grantee).
6

7 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

8
9 **Resolution on FEMA’s “Disaster Deductible” Proposal and its Potential Impacts on Counties**

10
11 **Issue:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released an advanced notice of
12 proposed rulemaking that puts forth the concept of a “disaster deductible,” which would have to be
13 fulfilled by recipients of FEMA Public Assistance funds before they receive such funding to assist in
14 disaster recovery.
15

16 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges FEMA to closely consider the
17 potential impacts of a proposed “disaster deductible” on the ability of local governments to protect their
18 residents and communities following disasters. Political and fiscal impacts of changes to federal policy
19 are often felt most acutely at the local level, and FEMA’s efforts to lower federal disaster spending while
20 incentivizing mitigation should not come at the expense of county governments.
21

22 NACo stands ready to work with its federal partners to ensure that the impacts of a “disaster deductible”
23 on local governments are carefully considered throughout a potential rulemaking process, so that any
24 policy changes can advance, and not hinder, our shared goals of keeping local communities safe and
25 secure in the midst of rising natural disasters.
26

27 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

1 **PUBLIC LANDS**

2
3 **Resolution Opposing Continued Wilderness Characteristic Inventory**

4
5 **Issue:** Wilderness characteristics cataloging and inventory without the right of the public and public
6 entities to comment, challenge, protest, and appeal.

7
8 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties opposes any continuing wilderness characteristics
9 inventory and cataloging by federal land management agencies without input and consent of impacted
10 county governments. Further, NACo opposes any and all administrative addition, whether backed by
11 inventory or not, of any designation or addition to the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS),
12 without the input and consent of impacted local governments. Such additions prohibited would include,
13 but not be limited to Wilderness Study Areas, National Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Outstanding
14 Natural Areas, and Forest Reserves.

15
16 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

17
18 **Resolution in Support for Historic Rights-of-Ways Legislation**

19
20 **Issue:** While the National Association of Counties (NACo) platform supports resolution of the claims of
21 counties under R.S. 2477, it is general in nature, and the process in place requires quieting title through
22 Federal District Court litigation and action. H.R. 4313, the Historic Routes Preservation Act, has been
23 introduced to provide an efficient and cost-effective method for the federal government to confirm such
24 claims.

25
26 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports passage of H.R. 4313, the Historic Routes Preservation Act, and
27 introduction, consideration and passage in the Senate of this bill or a companion creating an
28 administrative process for confirming historic rights-of-ways on federal lands for qualifying roads,
29 including the waiver of the statute of limitations regarding timely filing of such applications where
30 qualifying roads cross “reserved” land.

31
32 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

33
34 **Resolution Urging Congress and/or Department of the Interior to Take Actions to Stop the**
35 **Moratorium on Leasing of Public Lands for Extraction of Carbon Based Resources**

36
37 **Issue:** Moratorium on carbon based natural resource leasing on public land while leasing process is
38 rewritten.

39
40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports: (1) the continued issuing of
41 leases by federal land management agencies for carbon based resource and fuel development on all public
42 lands approved for such leasing in the agencies' current resource management plans according to current
43 procedures and processes; and (2) the immediate elimination of all pending moratoriums against such
44 leasing.

45
46 **Approved | February 22, 2016**

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

NO RESOLUTIONS

TRANSPORTATION

Resolution in Support of Innovative, Connected, Automated Technology for Transit Solutions

Issue: Innovative, advanced, connected, cost-effective technology, such as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and connected, automated vehicles and systems, can substantially improve safety, mobility, and connectivity of shared public transit but is not being widely considered despite current public use in Europe, Asia and, in limited form, the United States.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges modifying U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Transit Administration, or Federal Highway Administration policy in all appropriate innovative, advanced, connected, cost-effective technology grant guidelines to allow Automated Transit Networks as eligible for capital funding and to encourage states, local governments, or Metropolitan Planning Organizations to consider innovative, connected, automated technology in planning for transportation solutions.

Approved | February 22, 2016