



Proposed Interim Policy Resolutions

For Board Consideration



TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS	1
Proposed Interim Resolution to Amend the Highway Beautification Act to Improve Agritourism	1
Proposed Interim Resolution on Farmer Suicides	1
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	2
Proposed Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.....	2
Proposed Interim Resolution on Low-Income Housing Tax Credits	2
Proposed Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	2
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Increased Funding and Prioritization for Military Housing.....	3
ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE.....	4
Proposed Interim Resolution on Implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Refrigerant Management Rules	4
Proposed Interim Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation	4
Proposed Interim Resolution on Partnerships for Clean Energy and Rural Development.....	4
FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.....	6
Proposed Interim Resolution on Federal Government Nonpayment of Special District Fees	6
HEALTH	7
Proposed Interim Policy Resolution on New Restrictions on State and Local Flexibility to Finance the Non-Federal Share of Medicaid	7
Proposed Interim Resolution to Increase Resources for Suicide Prevention	7
Proposed Interim Resolution on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Regulations of Cannabidiol and Other Cannabinoids.....	7
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting an Amendment to the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act Clarifying that County Mental Health and Behavioral Health Treatments Involving Court Ordered Patients are Covered by the Federal Torts Claim Act.....	8
Proposed Interim Policy Resolution Supporting Urgent Congressional Action for COVID-19 Response and Protecting Local Public Health Funding.....	9
HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION	10
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Full Funding of Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	10
Proposed Interim Resolution to Support Working Families by Increasing the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits	10
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Legislation on Early Childhood Development	10

Proposed Interim Resolution to Support the Administration’s FY 2021 Budget Proposal to Improve the Family First Prevention Services Act.....	11
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY	12
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Vulnerable Incarcerated Individuals Medical Care, Housing and Safety	12
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting the TAPS Act and Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Legislation to Prevent Targeted Acts of Violence in Our Communities.....	12
Proposed Interim Resolution on Reforming Pretrial Monetary Bail.....	13
Proposed Interim Resolution on Addressing Community Violence as a Public Health Issue	13
PUBLIC LANDS.....	14
Proposed Interim Resolution on U.S. Forest Service Workforce Capacity and Infrastructure.....	14
Proposed Interim Resolution on the Council on Environmental Quality’s Revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations	14
Proposed Interim Resolution on the Use of Targeted Grazing for Wildland Fire Management.....	15
Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Flexibility in the Elections Section of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.....	15
Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Stopping the Annual Five Percent Drawdown of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Payments to National Forest Counties	15
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Increasing Timber Harvests and Forest Restoration from National Forest System Lands to Maximum Sustainable Levels	16
Proposed Interim Resolution Prohibiting New Wilderness Designations Without the Approval of the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction.....	16
Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting No Net Increase in Public Land Ownership Without the Approval of the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction.....	16
Proposed Interim Resolution Urging the United States Secretary of the Interior and the United States Secretary of Agriculture to Reinstate All Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee Charters and Confirm All Nominations.....	17
Proposed Interim Resolution on Inclusion of Full Payments In-Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Funding in the President’s Annual Budget	17
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY	18
Proposed Interim Resolution to Support Funding for NextGen911 and Rural Broadband Through C-Band Auction	18
TRANSPORTATION.....	19
Proposed Interim Resolution Urging Congress to Enact Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank to Finance Urgently Needed Infrastructure Projects.....	19

Proposed Interim Resolution Directing Congress and the U.S. Department of
Transportation to Allow Public-Private Partnerships for the Continued Operation
of Federal Rest Areas.....20
Proposed Interim Resolution Directing Congress to Establish a Discretionary Grant
Program to Fund the Elimination of Highway-Rail At-Grade Crossings.....20

1 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Amend the Highway Beautification Act to Improve Agritourism**

4
5 **Issue:** Efforts to improve rural economies through new agritourism activities are being hindered by a lack
6 of outdoor advertising on highways that receive federal funding.

7
8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the 23 U.S. Code §
9 131, Control of outdoor advertising pursuant to the Highway Beautification Act (HBA), to allow
10 appropriate and attractive outdoor advertising signage to include off-premise directional signage in
11 agriculturally-zoned districts for agritourism activities to foster economic vitality for our rural
12 communities and counties.

13
14 **February 29, 2020**

15 **Approved | Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee | Unanimous**

16
17 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Farmer Suicides**

18
19 **Issue:** Support the Seeding Rural Resilience Act (S. 2599) to reduce the growing rate of farmer and rancher
20 suicides.

21
22 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Seeding Rural Resilience
23 Act (S. 2599), which seeks to curb the growing rate of farmer and rancher suicides by creating a Farmer-
24 Facing Employee Training Program, developing a mental health awareness and destigmatization campaign
25 and establishing a task force on rural mental health.

26
27 **February 29, 2020**

28 **Approved | Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee | Unanimous**

1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and**
4 **Urban Development**

5
6 **Issue:** Support Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
7 Development (HUD).

8
9 **Proposed 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
12 Appropriations bill: no less than \$3.8 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula
13 funding; no less than \$1.6 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
14 (HOME); \$2.8 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance Grants, including at least \$270 million for the
15 Emergency Solutions Grant program, plus an amount to fully fund expiring Supportive Housing and
16 Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-
17 based contracts; \$40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and \$500 million in
18 Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

19
20 **February 29, 2020**

21 **Approved | Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee | Unanimous**

22
23 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Low-Income Housing Tax Credits**

24
25 **Issue:** To build and preserve more affordable housing through the expansion of the Low-Income Housing
26 Tax Credit program.

27
28 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the Affordable
29 Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019 (S. 1703 / H.R. 3077) to expand and preserve the nation’s
30 affordable housing stock.

31
32 **February 29, 2020**

33 **Approved | Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee | Unanimous**

34
35 **Proposed Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and**
36 **Opportunity Act**

37
38 **Issue:** Support FY 2021 appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

39
40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide adequate
41 resources for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and fund the Title I, Title II
42 and III accounts at the levels authorized and listed below:

43
44 Title I – U.S. Department of Labor

- 45 • \$861.1 million for Adult Employment and Training Services, \$922.2 million for the Youth
46 Account and \$1.37 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

1 Title II – U.S. Department of Education
2 • \$656.955 million for Adult Education

3
4 Title III – Wagner-Peyser Employment Services

5 • \$668 million for Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) current-year levels to give states the
6 additional resources they need to provide WIOA’s intensive reemployment services

7
8 In addition, NACo supports only a WIOA formula allocation funding approach. NACo supports local
9 control and investment at the county and municipality level and rejects any mechanism that gives states
10 more authority than WIOA intends. NACo also supports strengthening the county’s role in planning and
11 administering WIOA programs.

12
13 **February 29, 2020**

14 **Approved | Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee | Unanimous**

15
16 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Increased Funding and Prioritization for Military**
17 **Housing**

18
19 **Issue:** Media and official reports throughout 2018 and 2019 detailed the below-adequate, neglected and
20 unsafe state of military housing for the Armed Services. Military officials have stated the need for more
21 funding to improve the conditions of housing stock for the Armed Services.

22
23 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Department
24 of Defense to prioritize funding and implementation of improvements to military housing to improve safety
25 and quality of life for the members of the Armed Services that protect our country.

26
27 **February 29, 2020**

28 **Approved | Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee | Unanimous**

1 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
4 **Refrigerant Management Rules**
5

6 **Issue:** New federal regulations require strict air conditioning (AC) system inspections, maintenance and
7 record keeping, include heavy fines and apply to all AC system owners. Most county governments are
8 subject to these rules and many are not aware of their liability.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to provide
11 resources to assist with the implementation of Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, including additional
12 funding for training and assistance with tracking and documentation, maintenance, disposal and reporting
13 requirements.
14

15 **February 29, 2020**

16 **Approved | Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee | 47-4**
17

18 **Proposed Interim Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation**
19

20 **Issue:** Designating the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national
21 significance and the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program.
22

23 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S.
24 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System
25 as estuaries of national significance, and by extension recognize the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary
26 Program as a National Estuary Program (NEP), per Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Furthermore,
27 NACo urges the federal government to achieve a funding level to continue the NEP to all counties that
28 meet a locally-significant start up program.
29

30 **February 29, 2020**

31 **Approved | Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee | Unanimous**
32

33 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Partnerships for Clean Energy and Rural Development**
34

35 **Issue:** 201 counties in the United States, with a population of nearly 125 million people, do not attain the
36 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards. This can have a profound effect on
37 the economies of these areas, yet county officials often have little control over the sources of air pollution
38 because they originate in other political jurisdictions or are regulated by other entities.
39

40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal financial assistance to
41 counties to implement innovative regional approaches for reducing air pollution, including locally driven
42 actions that include energy efficiency, renewable energy projects and cross jurisdictional legislative
43 actions. NACo urges the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to include a specific line
44 item for new direct non-competitive grants in the funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural
45 Development.

- 1 **February 29, 2020**
- 2 **Approved | Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee | Unanimous**
- 3 **Approved | Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee | Unanimous**

1 **HEALTH**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Policy Resolution on New Restrictions on State and Local Flexibility to Finance**
4 **the Non-Federal Share of Medicaid**

5
6 **Issue:** State and county flexibility to finance the non-federal share of Medicaid.
7

8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the current rules that undergird
9 the federal-state-local partnership for financing the Medicaid program, including Disproportionate Share
10 Hospital (DSH) payments and other supplemental payments. These rules permit using an array of public
11 funds for intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), certified public expenditures (CPEs) and other financing
12 mechanisms. Counties encourage maximum flexibility for states and counties to finance the non-federal
13 share of Medicaid. Counties oppose any new restrictions on that flexibility which could shift costs to state
14 and local taxpayers and/or limit the ability to plan and reduce access to essential health care services for
15 low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents.
16

17 **February 29, 2020**
18 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | Unanimous**
19

20 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Increase Resources for Suicide Prevention**

21
22 **Issue:** Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death
23 among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34.
24

25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the strengthening of services
26 through additional funding and resources for those suffering from mental illness and other factors, who may
27 be at risk for suicide.
28

29 **February 29, 2020**
30 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | Unanimous**
31

32 **Proposed Interim Resolution on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Regulations of**
33 **Cannabidiol and Other Cannabinoids**

34
35 **Issue:** The U.S. is in the midst of a “CBD craze.” Purveyors of cannabidiol (CBD) make vastly
36 exaggerated claims about its effects for a very broad array of health conditions. These claims have not
37 been tested for accuracy. In this context, persons with mental health and substance use conditions are at
38 great risk of using CBD to attempt to “cure” their conditions, rather than adhering to more appropriate and
39 effective medications. Other consumers are likely to take the same actions with respect to other health
40 conditions because of the wild claims made about CBD products.
41

42 Clinical trials also demonstrate that there are adverse health effects associated with inappropriate use of
43 CBD, including drug-induced liver injury and drug-drug interactions. Adverse effects such as these can be
44 monitored and managed with physician oversight, which occurs with prescription medicines. But for CBD
45 consumer products, individuals will be self-administering CBD without physician supervision. Thus, the
46 CBD craze poses a major public health risk.

1 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Food and Drug Administration
2 (FDA) to develop appropriate pathways for the testing and approval of cannabinoids as medications using
3 rigorous standards. To date only one cannabidiol (CBD) based medication, Epidiolex, has been approved
4 for the treatment of refractory epilepsy in small children. NACo further urges the FDA to develop
5 appropriate pathways for the testing and approval of food supplements and cosmetics that contain low
6 concentration levels of CBD, as well as other cannabinoids, using rigorous standards. These standards
7 should address important issues of safety, purity and consistency. Finally, NACo urges FDA to require
8 physicians to share with their patients’ appropriate information and resources regarding the safety of CBD
9 products and the status of the products approved by FDA.

10
11 **February 29, 2020**
12 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | Unanimous**

13
14 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting an Amendment to the Federally Supported Health**
15 **Centers Assistance Act Clarifying that County Mental Health and Behavioral Health Treatments**
16 **Involving Court Ordered Patients are Covered by the Federal Torts Claim Act**

17
18 **Issue:** As more and more counties turn to addressing issues at the intersection of public safety and
19 behavioral health, protecting counties from related litigation must be a part of that conversation. Courts
20 are partners in these policy evolutions and already enjoy wide ranging immunity for their actions. When
21 courts order defendants into community treatment within a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), it
22 is imperative that counties are clear on the federal protections provided to their employees to be
23 considered a federal employee in the event of a lawsuit. The National Association of Counties (NACo)
24 seeks clarifying language that will make the original intent of Congress clear, such that counties are not
25 exposed to excessive litigation or forced to bring suit against the federal government for protections
26 which exist under the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act and the Federal Tort Claims
27 Act. This resolution does not remove or diminish access to justice, rather it shifts the source of potential
28 remedies from counties to the federal government.

29
30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following amendments to
31 the Federally Supported Health Centers Act:

- 32
33
 - Amend 42 USC § 233 (g) (1) (c) to clarify that an individual ordered into treatment at a Federally
34 Qualified Health Center (FQHC) by a court is a patient of the entity.

35
36 The intent of this first amendment is to clearly establish that not all patients of a FQHC are voluntarily
37 seeking treatment and that not all FQHC are voluntarily providing treatment. Patients may well have
38 existing criminal charges pending or have otherwise been ordered by a court to receive treatment from a
39 FQHC to establish their competency to aid and assist in their own defense or as part of an alternative-to-
40 incarceration sentencing framework.

- 41
42
 - Amend 42 USC § 233 (a) to clarify that behavioral and mental health treatment is a related
43 function (to medical, surgical and dental functions)

44
45 The intent of this amendment is to more clearly establish that behavioral and mental health treatment is
46 included as an exclusive remedy. The Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act suggests

1 damages arising from death and injury “resulting from the performance of medical, surgical, dental, or
2 related functions...shall be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding...”
3

4 **February 29, 2020**

5 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | Unanimous**
6

7 **Proposed Interim Policy Resolution Supporting Urgent Congressional Action for COVID-19**
8 **Response and Protecting Local Public Health Funding**
9

10 **Issue:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar has declared COVID-
11 19 a public health emergency. Response from local public health and other county emergency services, as
12 well as state and federal partners, requires urgent additional appropriation.
13

14 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass a Fiscal Year
15 2020 supplemental appropriation to expand and strengthen global, federal, state, territorial, tribal and
16 local capacity and coordination to adequately respond to this infectious disease outbreak. NACo requests
17 that the Department of Defense maintain jurisdiction over cases within their health system if there is
18 adequate capacity to treat and contain the risk. Furthermore, NACo requests that the federal government
19 use the long-standing communication practices in use in previous public health emergencies.
20

21 **February 29, 2020**

22 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | Unanimous**

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Full Funding of Title I and Individuals with Disabilities**
4 **Education Act**

5
6 **Issue:** For over 50 years, the federal government has significantly underfunded both Title I of the
7 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, denying
8 adequate resources to our most at-risk youth.

9
10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts to require
11 Congress to fiscally meet its obligation to fully fund Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education
12 Act (ESEA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) over the next 10 years.

13
14 **February 29, 2020**

15 **Approved | Human Services and Education Steering Committee | Unanimous**

16
17 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Support Working Families by Increasing the Earned Income and**
18 **Child Tax Credits**

19
20 **Issue:** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are important tax policies
21 supporting working families and their children. Tied to incomes, the EITC and CTC help increase
22 employment and earnings. Consequently, the tax credits assist in increasing the economic independence
23 of low to middle income working families.

24
25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to increase and
26 expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Those provisions include, but
27 are not limited to, increasing the EITC and lowering the age of eligibility for single individuals who are
28 not raising their dependent child, thus increasing the noncustodial parent’s incentive to work and income
29 for their child; and, reforming the CTC to include, among other provisions, making it fully refundable so
30 all families may benefit from it.

31
32 **February 29, 2020**

33 **Approved | Human Services and Education Steering Committee | Unanimous**

34
35 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Legislation on Early Childhood Development**

36
37 **Issue:** Children ages birth to three need a healthy start consisting of comprehensive, nurturing and
38 supportive services to help them reach their full potential for success in life.

39
40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would protect
41 and increase investments in early childhood development to ensure that needed educational, nutritional
42 and social services are available to children in the critical years of development between birth and age
43 three.

44
45 These investments include greater coordination among pre-school programs in schools and county-run
46 programs such as home visiting programs, publicly funded child care, child wellness, Head Start, Early
47 Head Start and quality childcare including the support of the early childhood workforce. Collaboration

1 with highly trained and motivated partners who build exceptional early childhood ecosystems are pivotal
2 in providing a generation of young people who enter school ready to learn. By investing in and
3 demonstrating leadership in these early childhood development programs, we can begin to bring about
4 successful educational outcomes to fight poverty and reduce inequality across our nation.

5
6 **February 29, 2020**

7 **Approved | Human Services and Education Steering Committee | 34-2**

8
9 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Support the Administration’s FY 2021 Budget Proposal to Improve**
10 **the Family First Prevention Services Act**

11
12 **Issue:** The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) makes reforms to the delivery of child welfare
13 services by providing federal reimbursement through IV-E federal foster care for evidence based
14 prevention programs and services approved by FFPSA’s Prevention Services Clearinghouse. A goal of
15 the FFPSA is to keep children in their homes whenever safe and possible. The current statutory
16 requirements used by the clearinghouse to determine those programs are very restrictive, resulting in few
17 prevention programs eligible for reimbursement.

18
19 The FFPSA also intends to reduce the use of congregate care by setting a number of new federal
20 requirements to discourage its use. One of those requirements, however, would have the unintended effect
21 of disallowing Medicaid reimbursement for FFPSA Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)
22 that are currently under the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion. The IMD provision
23 prohibits Medicaid from paying for institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in
24 providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental illnesses, including medical attention,
25 nursing care and related services.

26
27 The Trump Administration’s FY 2021 budget proposes statutory changes to address the above FFPSA
28 impediments.

29
30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the administration’s FY 2021
31 budget proposal and introduction of legislation to address the current lack of evidence-based prevention
32 programs eligible for federal IV-E reimbursement under the Family First Prevention Services Act
33 (FFPSA). NACo supports the administration’s proposal to allow the Administration for Children and
34 Families (ACF) to approve all programs currently rated as evidence-based by the California Evidence-
35 Based Clearinghouse and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Home Visiting Evidence
36 of Effectiveness Project.

37
38 NACo also supports the administration’s proposal to remove the federal bar on Medicaid payments to
39 Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) that are currently under the Institutions for Mental
40 Diseases (IMD) payment exclusion in order to allow some congregate care entities to serve children when
41 that placement is appropriate and necessary.

42
43 **February 29, 2020**

44 **Approved | Human Services and Education Steering Committee | 33-3**

1 **JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Vulnerable Incarcerated Individuals Medical Care,**
4 **Housing and Safety**

5
6 **Issue:** Vulnerable inmates deserve appropriate medical care, and physical, mental and emotional safety
7 while incarcerated.

8
9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges additional funding specifically
10 available to counties to implement Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance in local jails, and for
11 the National Institute of Corrections to issue comprehensive guidance based on scientific evidence and
12 best practices regarding medical care, housing and safety considerations for the most vulnerable
13 incarcerated individuals.

14
15 **February 29, 2020**

16 **Approved | Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee | Unanimous**

17
18 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting the TAPS Act and Behavioral Threat Assessment and**
19 **Management Legislation to Prevent Targeted Acts of Violence in Our Communities**

20
21 **Issue:** The issue of targeted acts of violence in America’s schools and workplaces has grown in
22 importance and impact to the American psyche. Years of efforts to restrict the tools used by violent actors
23 have failed to stop these atrocities and no reactive method is fast enough to stop actors once they fire their
24 first shot or stab their first victim. For decades, the process of Behavioral Threat Assessment and
25 Management (BTAM) has been used to proactively identify, investigate, assess and mitigate threats of
26 targeted violence – and BTAM is, in fact, the methodology used to protect members of Congress and their
27 staff as well as other government officials. Scientifically validated BTAM processes exist that can and
28 must be used in our communities.

29
30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to implement
31 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) by providing guidelines across all levels of
32 government and providing counties with training, resources and support needed to stand up community-
33 based multidisciplinary BTAM units in order to intervene and mitigate targeted acts of violence in our
34 communities. Specifically, NACo supports the establishment of a temporary working group made up of
35 BTAM experts to make recommendations to Congress regarding a national strategy for preventing
36 targeted violence and the other components of the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act
37 (H.R. 838/S. 265).

38
39 **February 29, 2020**

40 **Approved | Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee | Unanimous**

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Reforming Pretrial Monetary Bail**

2
3 **Issue:** Seeking alternatives to existing bail structure that lessen the financial burden of pretrial detainees.

4
5 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration
6 to put forth legislation that would provide alternatives to the existing monetary bail structure for
7 nonviolent crime; to reduce mass incarceration in the current system involving individuals awaiting trial,
8 who are incarcerated because they cannot afford to pay bail. NACo encourages the federal government to
9 support counties through funding and technical assistance for data collection and explore the viability of
10 monetary bail alternatives, such as a pretrial safety assessment (PSA) release option. NACo also urges
11 Congress to direct funding to counties and relevant agencies for their support to conduct research on
12 alternatives to the current bail system.

13
14 **February 29, 2020**

15 **Approved | Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee | 53-3**

16
17 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Addressing Community Violence as a Public Health Issue**

18
19 **Issue:** Determining the causes of community violence through data collection to establish a prevention
20 framework for local governments from a public health approach.

21
22 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to introduce legislation
23 and ensure sustained funding for: (1) collection of data on community violence offenders and firearm-
24 related deaths, including but not limited to age, gender, location of crime, prior charges or convictions and
25 race; (2) research on the gathered data to better understand the root causes of community violence; and (3)
26 implementation of community violence prevention plans and programs by counties to address the causes
27 identified. NACo also calls on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of
28 Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide funding and
29 technical assistance for the collection and analysis of this data, as well as counties' community violence
30 prevention strategies.

31
32 **February 29, 2020**

33 **Approved | Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee | Unanimous**

34 **Approved | Health Steering Committee | 40-1**

1 **PUBLIC LANDS**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution on U.S. Forest Service Workforce Capacity and Infrastructure**

4
5 **Issue:** The U.S. Forest Service lacks the personnel and infrastructure capacity necessary to properly
6 manage, conserve and restore the National Forest System.

7
8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the findings and conclusions
9 set forth in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees’ report, entitled “Increasing Workforce
10 Capacity to Increase the Pace and Scale of Restoration on National Forest System Lands” and will work
11 with the administration and Congress toward implementing the report’s recommendations and toward
12 policies that add, repair and maintain needed infrastructure with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department
13 of Agriculture and other appropriate entities.

14
15 **February 29, 2020**

16 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

17
18 **Proposed Interim Resolution on the Council on Environmental Quality’s Revisions to the National**
19 **Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations**

20
21 **Issue:** The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has promulgated a proposed rulemaking that would
22 update its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations.

23
24 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports revising National
25 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations to standardize the qualifications for
26 cooperating agency status, to allow for a cooperating agency to participate in the schedule planning
27 process for NEPA analyses, to direct the lead federal agency to meet with a cooperating agency at the
28 cooperating agency’s request and to amend the definition of cooperating agency to increase the
29 opportunities for involvement from experts within state, local and tribal governments.

30
31 NACo supports revisions that would allow federal agencies’ local and regional offices to enter into formal
32 agreements with state and local partners, including allowing state and local governments to conduct
33 portions of, or provide critical data for, a NEPA analysis. NACo recommends that federal agencies work
34 with state and local officials to ensure proposed actions and categorical exclusions are consistent with
35 state and local infrastructure development and land management plans by expanding and mandating
36 reviews for federal agencies with counties and considering the input of all affected parties.

37
38 NACo supports page and time limitations for environmental assessments and environmental impact
39 statements to minimize the administrative burden that counties face as a result of the NEPA process.
40 NACo also requests the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to clarify that any potential deleterious
41 environmental impacts a project may cause will continue to be thoroughly analyzed as changes to NEPA
42 implementation are developed.

43
44 **February 29, 2020**

45 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting Increasing Timber Harvests and Forest Restoration from**
2 **National Forest System Lands to Maximum Sustainable Levels**

3
4 **Issue:** Reduced timber harvests and other management activities have left 80 million acres of National
5 Forest System (NFS) land at risk of wildfire, insect or disease infestation. This negatively affects
6 community security, public health and economic opportunity.

7
8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on federal land agencies to use all
9 available tools—including stewardship contracting, Good Neighbor Agreements and other collaborative
10 efforts (while maintaining compliance with the 1937 O&C Act)—to increase timber harvest levels to the
11 maximum sustainable levels to reduce the threat of wildfire and insect and disease infestation while
12 spurring economic opportunities for public lands counties.

13
14 **February 29, 2020**

15 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

16
17 **Proposed Interim Resolution Prohibiting New Wilderness Designations Without the Approval of**
18 **the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

19
20 **Issue:** Oftentimes wilderness designations are made without the support of the elected officials within the
21 impacted counties.

22
23 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the prohibition of new
24 wilderness designations without the approval of the governing bodies of the counties of jurisdiction.

25
26 **February 29, 2020**

27 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

28
29 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting No Net Increase in Public Land Ownership Without the**
30 **Approval of the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

31
32 **Issue:** Organizations purchase private property and donate it to federal land management agencies, thus
33 removing it from economic production and reducing the tax base of county governments.

34
35 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation
36 requiring federal land management agencies to receive the approval of the governing bodies of the
37 counties of jurisdiction in order to have a net increase in federal land ownership.

38
39 **February 29, 2020**

40 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution Urging the United States Secretary of the Interior and the United**
2 **States Secretary of Agriculture to Reinstate All Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest**
3 **Service Resource Advisory Committee Charters and Confirm All Nominations**
4

5 **Issue:** The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not reinstated all Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
6 Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) charters authorized under section 309 of the Federal Land Policy
7 Management Act (FLMPA). Furthermore, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not confirmed all the
8 community nominations to the BLM RAC and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has not confirmed all
9 nominations for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) RACs authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and
10 Community Self-Determination Act (P.L. 116-94), which leaves many RACs nonfunctional due to
11 vacancies and an inability to meet a quorum.
12

13 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Secretary of the Interior
14 to expeditiously reinstate all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
15 charters and confirm all nominations to the BLM RACs as authorized under Section 309 of the Federal
16 Land Policy Management Act (FLMPA). Additionally, NACo urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to
17 expeditiously confirm all nominations to the U.S. Forest Service RACs as authorized under Secure Rural
18 Schools.
19

20 **February 29, 2020**

21 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**
22

23 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Inclusion of Full Payments In-Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural**
24 **Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Funding in the President’s Annual Budget**
25

26 **Issue:** The annual appropriations cycle leaves funding for Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure
27 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) subject to potential cuts or elimination on an
28 annual basis.
29

30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the U.S. Department of the
31 Interior (DOI), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Office of Management and
32 Budget (OMB) to include proposals for full, permanent funding of Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and
33 full funding of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) until a long-term
34 sustainable funding solution for national forest counties is agreed to.
35

36 **February 29, 2020**

37 **Approved | Public Lands Steering Committee | Voice Vote**

1 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Support Funding for NextGen911 and Rural Broadband Through**
4 **C-Band Auction**

5
6 **Issue:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has recently authorized the auction of C-Band
7 spectrum with a directive for the entirety of funds to the U.S. Treasury Department.

8
9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the SMART Act (S. 3246) so
10 long as funds are directed towards national deployment of NextGen911 and also directed to unserved and
11 underserved communities for rural broadband deployment while meeting the Federal Communication
12 Commission’s (FCC) definition of broadband speeds.

13
14 **February 29, 2020**

15 **Approved | Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee | 38-2**

TRANSPORTATION

Proposed Interim Resolution Urging Congress to Enact Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank to Finance Urgently Needed Infrastructure Projects

Issue: According to the American Society of Civil Engineers and the U.S. Congress, there is a budget shortfall of over \$2 trillion needed to finance urgently needed infrastructure programs. Current budget estimates cut discretionary funding. Also, this does not include much needed programs such as broadband, passenger transit systems, high speed rail, clean water supply projects, flood control systems, energy distribution systems, ferries, fish passage barriers and power grid upgrades. Therefore, the real financing need is well over \$4 trillion. The National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) would finance projects within all regions of the U.S. In the past, the United States has employed four National Banking systems to build out the infrastructure, and the proposed new legislation follows in that successful model and tradition.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation to create a new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) system in the tradition of George Washington, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. This proposed bill has the following critical points:

1. It would create a new NIB by exchanging existing Treasury debt for preferred stock in the bank. The proposal is to raise \$500 billion, out of the \$23 trillion in Treasury debt, and put it in the bank. This would require no new federal debt.
2. The NIB would pay two percent interest above the Treasury yield to the investors, with all transactions being federally insured. The two percent would be included in the U.S. budget and not go through appropriations. This model has been used in the past, initiated by the first Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.
3. The NIB would perform as a traditional commercial bank and be able to provide financing in the form of loans. The bank would loan \$4 trillion to states, cities, counties, authorities and multi-state entities to address the infrastructure crisis in the nation. Loans would be long term, at Treasury rates and for infrastructure projects only.
4. There would be a Board of Directors composed of mainly engineers and infrastructure experts, with state, local and county officials with experience in infrastructure construction to assist in the implementation of the projects. The bank would report all banking transactions to Congress on a regular basis.
5. The NIB would create 25+ million new high paying jobs, which would increase the tax base and increase the productivity of the entire economy. Previous such entities have increased real GDP by 3-5 percent per year, and payback multiples have been anywhere from 2-10 times the investment.

February 29, 2020

Approved | Transportation Steering Committee | Voice Vote

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution Directing Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to**
2 **Allow Public-Private Partnerships for the Continued Operation of Federal Rest Areas**
3

4 **Issue:** Deferred maintenance and budget shortfalls on federal rest areas have grown in recent years,
5 causing operating deficiencies that threaten the safety of travelers and the long-term viability of rest areas.
6 Due to federal law, state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) are not allowed to contract with private
7 partners for the commercialization of federal-aid rest areas.
8

9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports policies to allow public-private
10 partnerships (P3s) on federal Rest Areas and to ensure that federal laws do not prevent rest areas and other
11 safety initiatives along highways from flourishing that will benefit travelers nationwide and bring much-
12 needed revenue to local economies and budget relief to state Departments of Transportation (DOTs).
13 NACo encourages Congress to do a thorough and complete study of commercialization of federal-aid rest
14 areas, with an emphasis on policies that maintain free and open public access to the core facilities,
15 including parking, restrooms and drinking fountains.
16

17 **February 29, 2020**

18 **Approved | Transportation Steering Committee | Unanimous**
19

20 **Proposed Interim Resolution Directing Congress to Establish a Discretionary Grant Program to**
21 **Fund the Elimination of Highway-Rail At-Grade Crossings**
22

23 **Issue:** Collisions, fatalities, chronic traffic congestion, increased pollution, train horn noise, delayed
24 emergency response, freight and trucking impacts and rail crossing violations are a fraction of the impacts
25 communities, commuters and commerce face as a result of at-grade crossings between rail and passenger
26 vehicle traffic. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, there are over 211,000 active highway-
27 rail grade crossings in America. Left unaddressed, issues at these crossings will continue to grow resulting
28 in compromised safety and negative economic impacts for Americans across the country.
29

30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to create a new
31 discretionary grant program providing federal funding opportunities for counties desiring to eliminate at
32 grade rail crossings.
33

34 **February 29, 2020**

35 **Approved | Transportation Steering Committee | Unanimous**