

September 7, 2025

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Meeting Date: September 09, 2025

Agenda Item No. 23

Distribution Date: September 08, 2025

Batch No. 02

**RE: Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal and Unlocking the County Reserves**

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of Just in Time for Foster Youth, I am writing to express our strong support for the critical proposal to establish an **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning** and the **Board Letter to Unlock County Reserves**, both brought forward by Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe.

This opportunity to act decisively comes as study after study shows that young adults today are struggling like never before - challenges amplified even more for young people impacted by foster care. At Just in Time for Foster Youth, we are committed to breaking the cycle of foster care's multi-generational negative outcomes by providing a reliable, responsive community of essential resources and supportive relationships. We know firsthand how vital County services are to the well-being of those who currently face increasing uncertainty as decisions made in Washington or Sacramento leave them feeling more vulnerable and disempowered.

Cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, housing, Medi-Cal, and other core services are not political concepts. They are real impacts on the daily lives of these young people, unraveling an already fragile safety net as the County's ability to meet urgent community needs weakens.

That's why we support the creation of the **Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee** as a proactive, community-centered approach to:

- Safeguard essential services;
- Explore equitable, sustainable local financing solutions;
- Protect vulnerable residents from preventable harm; and
- Maintain the County's strong financial standing and long-term investments.

We also strongly support the **proposal to unlock a portion of the County's reserves** to stabilize critical services now that they are at risk of cuts in the near term. These reserves represent a vital tool to cushion the community from harm and bridge urgent funding gaps. The public dollars potentially available will be invested in sensible, thoughtful ways that ensure that our most vulnerable - including children, seniors, the disabled, and young adults in the uncertain time of transition to adulthood- continue to receive critical support and services.

We understand that by updating how County reserves are calculated, this policy will free up around \$300 million without having to create additional public debt to the community or businesses. This policy also places stronger safeguards and accountability around the resulting reserve funds, ensuring they can only be used in true emergencies.

In short, it allows for a fiscally responsible, values-driven approach that allows the County to create a safety net for our communities through responsive, deliberate planning for its constituents, and ensures that our public dollars serve the public good in essential ways.

We urge the Board to move forward on both proposals and thank you in advance for your leadership during these challenging times. The decisions made today will shape the well-being of San Diego's communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Wells".

**Don Wells**  
Chief Empowerment Office  
Just in Time for Foster Youth