

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY  
OF SAN BENITO IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA BUDGET AUGMENTATION  
FOR LOCAL LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, AB 550 (Reyes) revises the Department of Aging Funding Formula (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 9719.5) for the 35 local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs from the 1989 allocation of \$35,000 local program base to \$100,000 local program base; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State and Federally mandated purpose of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is to ensure the highest possible quality of life and care for residents of long-term care facilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, through a combination of paid staff and well-trained certified volunteers, the Ombudsman organizations provide regular, unannounced in-person visits and resident advocacy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ombudsman organizations identify and resolve complaints, in addition to ensuring that facilities are free from health and safety issues, serving as eyes, ears and advocates for residents, particularly the 60% of residents without family members visiting to observe care and report problems; and,

**WHEREAS**, well-trained certified volunteer Ombudsmen in California's long-term care facilities are the single most cost effective opportunity to prevent complaints of neglect and abuse from occurring; and,

**WHEREAS**, an adequately funded Ombudsman Program is a vital part of the long-term care safety net; and,

**WHEREAS**, when Ombudsman Programs are able to fulfill the State and Federal service mandates, not only do care facility residents benefit with higher quality of life and care, but also the State reduces costs for new complaints that would otherwise be referred directly to the licensing agencies.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors endorses a State of California Budget Increase in the Department of Aging funding model for 35 local Ombudsman programs and encourages the passage of AB 550 (Reyes).

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11th day of April, 2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Benito, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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**JAIME DE LA CRUZ**, Chair

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

**ATTEST:**

Chase Graves

Clerk of the Board

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

San Benito County Counsel's Office

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Barbara Thompson

Assistant County Counsel