



Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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April 3, 2020

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
Room 1145, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated March 31, 2020, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), pursuant to Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020, of your intention to augment the *2019 Budget Act* to assist state and local governments in protecting the health and safety of the public and reducing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Specifically, Item 5180-001-0001 is augmented by \$41,000,000 for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to temporarily relocate residents residing in assisted living facilities impacted by COVID-19. Second, Item 5180-151-0001 is augmented by \$20,000,000 for the DSS to contract with food banks to help address the increases in food needs among low-income and food-insecure populations. Finally, various programs are augmented by a total of \$50,040,000 to address increased workload and county administration costs for human services and health care programs.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 crisis, I concur with the spending request. I respectfully request that the Department of Finance provide the JLBC with the modeling and methodology used to determine all of the augmentations requested in this letter, and an update on how many beds and facilities are available as part of the assisted living relocation efforts. Additionally, I request that the administration provide updates on how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted caseloads and state and county administrative costs for the major health and human services programs at the May Revision.

Finally, I urge the Administration to continue prioritizing measures that prevent the spread of COVID-19 and promote isolation of patients. To that end, moving COVID-19 patients into non-hospital settings should be done only after ensuring they are isolated from other vulnerable residents, safety procedures and policies are in place and all necessary personal protective equipment is available to ensure the safety of staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Holly J. Mitchell
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee