

# County of Santa Clara

Office of the Board of Supervisors

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Michael M. Honda  
Supervisor, First District

May 12, 1996

Honorable Charles Poochigian, Chairman  
Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2982 LIHEAP Block Grants

We are writing to urge your support of AB 2982, a bill which makes changes in regulations governing Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grants. LIHEAP is a program that like many federal programs has experienced dramatic reductions in funding. While AB 2982 does not increase funds available for LIHEAP services, it makes needed changes which will ultimately improve service to the target population.

LIHEAP is in need of major reform. There are several reasons for the changes that are embodied in AB 2982. Current California law regulating LIHEAP is over 15 years old. These regulations are out of date. They do not take into account the magnitude of the reductions that LIHEAP has experienced.

By bringing California law into conformity with federal law AB 2982 it removes unnecessary restrictions which limit flexibility. Flexibility is needed because the of limited funds currently available to meet the overwhelming needs in our community.

We must take steps to use remaining resources in a cost effective manner. AB 2982 recognizes this and encourages it within the limits of federal law.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Michael M. Honda  
Chair, Legislative Committee

Supervisor James T. Beall  
Vice-Chair, Legislative Committee