

From: [Alejandro Andrade](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Public Comment BOS 6/17/24 Item No. 9
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Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Alejandro Andrade, a physician currently employed at Magnolia Family Medical Clinic and Ventura County Medical Center. I have dedicated my service to Ventura county since July 2009. I completed my residency training at Ventura County Family Medicine Residency Program in 2012. Since then I have served in our county system by working full time at Magnolia clinic, in different county urgent cares, VCMC ER, as an attending at AFMC, inpatient medicine service at VCMC and SPH, and OB care at VCMC. Thus, I have practiced in a wide variety of aspects within our system and taken care of patients from all ages and backgrounds.

During the county clinic integration, we lost a lot of amazing physicians. Since the integration we have hired some physicians, but have continued to have further attrition of physicians. We take care of a very vulnerable population, including undocumented patients, low socioeconomic patients, farmworkers, and the homeless. At the same time, we also serve equally those who have medicare/medi-cal, HMO, private insurance and our very own county employees. Our patients are very complex with advanced illnesses. It really takes a special breed of physicians to take care of such a variety of patients and complexity. We are already working with limited staff and resources at our fingertips. It appears that in the current proposed budget, the average income for primary providers is lower. Additionally, there also appears there will be a deduction in the number of FTEs, thus indicating a further cut in physicians positions. Consequently, I am worried this will lead to more physicians leaving our system and inability to hire good quality and dedicated physicians to help serve our communities in Ventura county.

I am urging you to please reconsider the proposed budget. There needs to be a budget that allows for physicians to be paid comparable wages as our colleagues locally and within our sister counties. There are also needs to be a consideration in the budget for the rampant inflation. I don't know how much further attrition of physicians our system can take before our patients' quality of care is severely hindered.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Alejandro Andrade, MD

Disclaimer: My statement as a private citizen does not necessarily reflect the view of the HCA or the County of Ventura Government.