



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ■ District Three

STATEMENT

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Council President Gloria: San Diego Would Suffer with Sequestration

SAN DIEGO, CA (February 28, 2013) – Council President Todd Gloria today issued the following statement about the devastating impacts sequestration would have on the City of San Diego. He welcomes interview requests on the topic.

“Sequestration would cause San Diego to suffer. If federal spending is cut, the San Diego region would be greatly impacted. For that reason, the City included opposition to sequestration as a priority in our 2013 legislative package and has conveyed that to our Congressional delegation.

“Starting last year, my City Council colleagues and I have worked to fight sequestration and to advocate for more sensible ways to address federal fiscal challenges. I traveled to Washington, D.C. in September to convey the importance of finding alternatives to sequestration. In October, I testified before the State Assembly Select Committee on San Diego Trade, Tourism and Job Creation about the economic impact of sequestration on our region. Also last fall, the City Council passed a resolution raising awareness about the negative impact of sequestration’s automatic reductions in the Department of Defense’s budget.

“One out of every four local jobs is connected to defense spending alone, so if a number of jobs are cut due to budget constraints, our unemployed neighbors will likely spend far less money and will therefore impact the taxes on which the City depends to provide core services. If the City has less money, we’ll obviously need to revisit our budget priorities.

“These cuts are not empty positions. This week, I received an email from NASSCO letting me know that 1,040 of its employees in San Diego, Norfolk, and Mayport received letters that they may be indefinitely laid off on April 29. That single company alone could eliminate up to an additional 845 subcontractor positions. This equates to approximately 40% of its production workforce and almost its entire subcontractor base.

“Of course, cuts to the defense industry are not the only ways San Diego would be impacted. Sequestration would decrease the San Diego Housing Commission’s ability to create and improve housing opportunities for our neediest neighbors, slash Community Development Block Grant funding that benefits local organizations, rip apart critical services for children, seniors, people with mental illness, and health care, and gravely threaten local investment in streets, sidewalks, and public facilities.

“Our region and our country deserve better than this. Congress must act in the best interests of the people it represents, and that means not cutting our way to prosperity.”

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Other particularly notable cuts:

- **Small business:** The automatic cuts would reduce loan guarantees to small businesses by up to approximately \$900 million.
- **Public health:** California will lose approximately \$2.6 million in funds to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. In addition, California will lose about \$12.4 million in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse, resulting in around 9,400 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the California State Department of Health Services will lose about \$2 million resulting in around 49,300 fewer HIV tests.
- **Cuts to research and innovation:** To compete for the jobs of the future and ensure that the next breakthroughs to find cures for critical diseases are developed right here in America, we need to continue to lead the world in research and innovation. Most Americans with chronic diseases don't have a day to lose, but under sequestration progress towards cures would be delayed and several thousand researchers could lose their jobs. Up to 12,000 scientists and students would also be impacted. Around 9,600 fewer low income students in California would receive aid to help them finance the costs of college and around 3,690 fewer students will get work-study jobs that help them pay for college.
- **Cuts to food safety:** Outbreaks of food borne illness are a serious threat to families and public health. If sequestration takes effect, up to 2,100 fewer food inspections could occur, putting families at risk and costing billions in lost food production. Also, California would lose about \$12.4 million in environmental funding to ensure clean water and air quality, as well as prevent pollution from pesticides and hazardous waste. In addition, California could lose another \$1.9 million in grants for fish and wildlife protection.
- **Cuts to mental health:** If sequestration takes effect, up to 373,000 seriously mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed children could go untreated. This would likely lead to increased hospitalizations, involvement in the criminal justice system, and homelessness for these individuals.
- **Cuts to education:** Our ability to teach our kids the skills they'll need for the jobs of the future would be put at risk. 70,000 young children would lose access to Head Start, 10,000 teacher jobs would be put at risk, and funding for up to 7,200 special education teachers, aides, and staff could be cut. California will lose approximately \$87.6 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 1,210 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition about 187,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 320 fewer schools would receive funding. In addition, California will lose approximately \$62.9 million in funds for about 760 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.
- **Nutrition Assistance for Seniors:** California would lose approximately \$5.4 million in funds that provide meals for seniors.

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