

NEWS

From

Richard Alarcón

Councilmember, 7th District



Room 425, City Hall • 200 North Spring Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 473-7007 • FAX (213) 847-0707

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 3, 2008

CONTACT: Becca Doten

213-847-7777 (office)

213-219-5534 (cell)

GOVERNOR SIGNS SB 1236 (PADILLA), CONTINUES TRAUMA CARE AND PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CARE FUNDING ESTABLISHED BY ALARCÓN IN 2006

Los Angeles, CA – Today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 1236, a bill authored by State Senator Alex Padilla, which allows counties to continue to collect additional fines from certain criminal violations, including speeding and domestic assault, and use these fines to fund emergency medical services and pediatric trauma care. SB 1236 extends the sunset for SB 1773, which Councilmember Alarcón authored in 2006 when he was in the Senate. A provision of the bill includes that 15% of the funds collected must go into “Richie’s Fund” for pediatric trauma care services. This fund is named after Alarcón’s infant child who died in a car crash 21 years ago. In June the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to support SB 1236.

“In a time when emergency rooms are closing across the state, the Governor has done a great thing for emergency services and pediatric trauma care by signing SB 1236,” said Councilmember Richard Alarcón. “The San Fernando Valley, home to over 500,000 children, does not currently have a pediatric trauma care center and this may be the critical action necessary to enable Northridge Hospital to open one. I thank Sen. Padilla for carrying this important legislation and Governor Schwarzenegger for signing it.”

Sen. Padilla said, “I thank the Governor for signing SB 1236. In these tough economic times, the State will continue to provide critical funding for emergency and trauma care.”

Over the past several years, Councilmember Alarcón has been focused on bringing a pediatric trauma care center to the Valley. On April 30, Alarcón joined with representatives from the office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the office of Sen. Alex Padilla, Cathy Chidester, Acting Director of the County Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief Timothy Ernst and Mike Wall, the President and CEO of Northridge Hospital to announce progress in the efforts to bring pediatric trauma care to the San Fernando Valley.

In 2007, with the strong support of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the County Board of Supervisors voted to levy the additional fines allowed by SB1773. On April 30 it was announced that the county has ear-marked \$2 million dollars from “Richie’s Fund” to go toward the Northridge Hospital pediatric trauma care center, pending accreditation of the center. SB 1236 will allow the County to continue to collect money that can be used there.

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