

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 2.4
(ID # 22332)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for June 2023, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for June 2023.

ACTION:Consent

Jeff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer 6/21/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 27, 2023
xc: E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Monthly Advocacy Update (June 2023)
CSAC Letters (June 2023)
UCC Letters (June 2023)

MONTHLY ADVOCACY UPDATE

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at state/federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations. The Monthly Advocacy Update is meant to meet that requirement.

This report includes updates on the County's federal and state legislative advocacy efforts, legislation of interest, and copies of advocacy letters sent.

Asylum Seeker Humanitarian Response

The Executive Office has been providing regular asylum seeker response updates to the RivCo legislative delegation including one page situation summaries and briefing calls. As a result of these advocacy efforts the County will be eligible to receive additional federal and potentially some state funding to support these efforts.

On 06/13/23, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Shelter and Services Program (SSP) awards for FY 2023. The SSP makes federal funds available to non-federal entities to offset costs incurred for services associated with noncitizen migrant arrivals. RivCo was allocated and plans to apply for \$10,769,659.

On 06/15/23, the legislature approved a state budget, both the Senate and Assembly budgets included the Governor's proposed \$150M allocation for the Rapid Response program, which funds sheltering and humanitarian support at the Southern border. [Letter of Support sent 06/07/23 Attachment A]

CARE Court

As directed by the Board of Supervisors, per Agenda Item 3.3 on 05/2/23, the Executive Office continues to advocate for additional funding resources for the implementation of CARE Court [Letter of Support sent 06/12/23 Attachment B].

At HOME

As directed by the Board of Supervisors, per Agenda Item 3.4 on 03/28/23, the County has been providing support for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) AT HOME Proposal, a comprehensive plan to address homelessness which focuses on Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity. In recent weeks CSAC has been working to support proposed budget trailer language for additional accountability in state funding of homelessness. RivCo is a member of the coalition to support this proposal. [Letter of Support sent 06/23/23 Attachment C]

RivCo Bill List

118th Congress

- **H.R.696 (Rep. Calvert, Ken [CA-41])** To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on 02/07/23]
- **H.R.726 (Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [MI-9])** To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.
Position: Watch
- **H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1])/S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY])** Exempts discharges of fire retardant by Federal land management agencies and local governments from the permitting requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/23/23 Attachment D]

2023 California Legislative Session

- **AB 386 (Nguyen-D) California Right to Financial Privacy Act.** This bill would improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from financial abuse.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 03/14/23]
Impact: The bill was proposed by the RivCo Department of Child Support Services and is sponsored by the California Welfare Directors Association.
- **AB 444 (Addis-D) California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP).** Would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program, which would require the Office of Planning and Research, to grant funds to local agencies, which would assist with applications and matching fund requirements, for the federal DCIP.
Position: Support [Letters of Support Attachments E, F]
Impact: The bill could help RivCo more strategically apply for DCIP funds to help the March Air Reserve Base community.
- **AB 827 (Garcia-D) Public health: pulmonary health: Salton Sea region.** Would require the State Department of Public Health to conduct a study of the pulmonary health of communities in the Salton Sea region.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/15/23 Attachment G]
Impact: This bill could help RUHS Public Health inform and advance health equity work in the Salton Sea.
- **AB 1057 (Weber-D) California Home Visiting Program.** Codifies the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), which the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) created administratively.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/15/23 Attachment H]

- Impact:** The bill would provide funds to local health departments to support pregnant people and parents with young children, providing funding and policy opportunities for RUHS Public Health's health equity work.
- **AB 1168 (Bennett-D) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS.** Would change the key provisions of the EMS Act, creating a fractured local EMS (LEMSA) system in which local jurisdictions could opt out of our current LEMSA.
Position: Oppose [Letter of Opposition sent 05/11/23 Attachment I]
Activation: In addition to partnering with the opposition coalition, EMD staff met with legislative offices to advocate against the bill.
 - **AB 1448 (Wallis-R) Cannabis: enforcement by local jurisdictions.** Increases code enforcement and collection tools for illegal cannabis operators.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/10/23 Attachment J]
Impact: This bill could grant the County greater enforcement tools to go after illegal cannabis operators.
 - **SB 21 (Umberg-D) Civil actions: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in civil cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Position: Support [Per Agenda Item 3.3 on 05/02/23]
Impact: This bill would allow for greater efficiency and increased court access, promoting efficient Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act implementation. [Letters of Support Attachments K, L]
 - **SB 22 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Position: Support [Letters of Support Attachment M, N]
Impact: This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
 - **SB 45 (Roth-D) California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund.** Creates the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund and would continuously appropriate moneys to provide loans to qualifying county or city and county applicants for the purpose of building or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities, or psychiatric units in general acute care hospitals, as defined.
Position: Support
Advocacy Strategy: In addition to supporting the bill, RUHS is encouraging community partners to submit letters of support. [Attachment O]
 - **SB 75 (Roth-D) Courts: Judgeships.** This bill would authorize 26 additional judgeships, subject to appropriation. This bill would require the Judicial Council to determine the allocation of those positions, pursuant to their uniform criterion, resulting in six additional judges for Riverside County Courts.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.5 on 01/24/23]
Advocacy Strategy: RivCo leaders have highlighted the impacts of judicial shortages during meetings with members of the legislative delegation and have submitted a formal letter of support. [Attachment P]
 - **SB 99 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings for criminal cases.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Position: Support [Letters of Support Attachments Q, R]

- Impact:** This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
- **SB 318 (Ochoa Bogh-R) 211 Infrastructure.** This bill would establish the 211 Support Services Grant Program, which would enhance and scale 211 services across California.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/15/23 Attachment S]
Impact: This bill supports statewide 211 operations, capacity, and grant funding for the various network partners.
 - **SB 366 (Caballero-D) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.** This bill would complement and amplify Governor Newsom’s Water Supply Strategy, ensuring there are reasonable water supply targets.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.4 on 11/01/22]
Advocacy Strategy: This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets. [Attachment T]
 - **SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh-D) Undomesticated burros.** This bill would also authorize a nonprofit that contracts with a county to provide services to undomesticated burros.
Position: Sponsor [Letter of Support sent 06/07/23 Attachment U]
Impact: This bill was proposed by RivCo Animal Services. If passed this bill would allow animal services to work with nonprofit providers to provide services to the burro population.
 - **SB 418 (Padilla-D) Prison Redevelopment.** This bill would establish the California Prison Redevelopment Commission to prepare a report with recommendations that deliver clear and credible recommendations for creative uses of closed prison facilities, and will turn those sites into community assets.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.2 on 05/09/23]
Impact: This bill could be a vehicle for the County and community of Blythe to look at the impacts of the proposed closure. [Letter of Support sent 05/15/23 Attachment V]
 - **SB 602 (Archuleta-D & Seyarto-R) Trespass.** This bill would authorize a single request for assistance to be made and submitted electronically, allowing for streamlined enforcement of trespassing.
Position: Support [Letter of Support sent 05/15/23 Attachment W]
Impact: This bill would help our County’s code enforcement partners streamline their existing processes.



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: May Revision: \$150 Million Border Response - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of the Governor's May Revision budget proposal for \$150 million for border response and we respectfully request that these resources be used to fund asylum seeker response efforts at the County level.

For several years, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency has been experiencing a high influx of migrants crossing the border in search of asylum. Beginning on March 2, 2021, CBP started releasing families and individuals and began dropping them off in Riverside County. To prevent a humanitarian crisis on our streets, multiple County departments, federal and state agencies, and non-profit partners worked to develop and implement a plan.

The team's versatility and ability to move nimbly in an ever-changing environment helped provide physical and mental health screenings, warm meals, shelter, and safe passage to asylum seekers' ultimate destinations while they are waiting for their asylum hearings. To date our County has helped 78,357 individuals. While immigration policy is not an area that county government typically gets involved in, the County needed to step in to provide short-term safety net services to asylum seekers due to circumstances beyond our control and to prevent an even larger humanitarian crisis for our County.

Our response has been funded by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which has included both administrative oversight and contracting of hotel rooms and transportation

Attachment A

vendors. Additionally, CDSS has direct agreements with the two community-based organizations (CBOs), The Salvation Army and Galilee Center, who coordinate shelter services. Other sources of funding include the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMAs) Emergency Food Shelter Program (EFSP) Humanitarian Funding, which covers County staff time to coordinate the day-to-day operations of the program, medical case management, and supportive service costs provided by the CBOs.

We are requesting that the state continue to support costs towards lodging and transportation, in addition to the direct service agreements with the CBOs, as these are critical and necessary tools for the operation to continue.

To that end, we respectfully urge the provision of \$150 million in asylum seeker response funding in the 2023-24 budget. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

Attachment B



June 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Gavin Newsom

FROM: Scott DeMoss, County of Glenn
Fesia Davenport, County of Los Angeles
Frank Kim, County of Orange
Jeff Van Wagenen, County of Riverside
L. Michael Vu, County of San Diego
Jody Hayes, County of Stanislaus
Tracie Riggs, County of Tuolumne

Re: **2023-24 Budget: CARE Act Funding**

We, the above signed county executives, write to respectfully urge your consideration for additional resources in the 2023-24 state budget for implementation of SB 1338 (2022), the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. As the initial implementors of the CARE Act, we are concerned that months-long discussions with relevant state departments have not resulted in a common understanding or appreciation of the scope of counties' new obligations to implement the CARE process, clearly defined in statute as "the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act." Failure to adequately resource the CARE Act runs counter to our initial agreement to serve as early implementors and will not result in successful outcomes for those we have pledged to serve.

Specifically, we call your attention to two significant components of the CARE Act process that we believe merit further consideration. First, we suggest that the Administration's underlying workload assumptions for behavioral health professionals required to execute the CARE Act fall short of what is needed to effectively execute court appearances, preparation and coordination, noticing, care plan development, case management, housing services/supports, and outreach/engagement – all essential components of the process.

2023-24 Budget: CARE Act Funding
June 12, 2023 | Page 2

Second, the Administration's May Revision estimates fail to adequately acknowledge the critical and significant role of county legal representation in the CARE Act process. The CARE Act is a court process that will *necessarily* require professional legal representation provided by county counsel or, in the City and County of San Francisco, city attorneys. To date, the Administration appears unwilling to appropriately fund the legal workload associated with the CARE Act, instead pointing to an administrative overhead rate that is derived from existing programs without similar legal workload requirements. (The state's obligation and practice of funding the county's counsel in similar state-mandated legal proceedings is well-established, including child welfare cases, sexually violent predator proceedings, and Individual Education Plan hearings for disabled students. As a result, we are confused as to why legal costs are the subject of so much disagreement.) Put simply, counties *cannot* effectively participate in the CARE Act process without substantial engagement with our attorneys.

We recognize that the state is facing difficult fiscal circumstances, as we are dealing with similar budget challenges locally. At the same time, our counties have been diligently preparing for early implementation of the CARE Act as we have committed to do. Our collective success relies on a partnership with the state that is focused on ensuring that counties have the tools that we need to achieve positive outcomes for individuals in need of care. We have been clear about what we believe is necessary for success – resources for workload requirements for county behavioral health, county counsel, and public defender – and we expect that the state honors its commitment to support our local efforts. If not, the CARE Act will fail to achieve the results that you, the Legislature, and our shared constituents expect of us and will undermine the capacity of the remaining counties to implement the CARE Act in late 2024.

We respectfully urge you to consider additional resources for CARE Act funding as you finalize the state's 2023-24 budget and remain available to answer questions or address concerns. Please direct any inquiries to Kelly Brooks-Lindsey of Hurst Brooks Espinosa at kbl@hbeadvocacy.com.

cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Members in the Counties of Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange,
Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne

Attachment B

2023-24 Budget: CARE Act Funding

June 12, 2023 | Page 3

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
(CalHHS)

Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health, CalHHS

Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of
Governor Gavin Newsom

Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance

Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Toni Atkins

Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Toni Atkins

Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant, Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon

Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office



June 22, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Homelessness Funding Accountability

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the AT HOME Coalition for Accountability, our organizations write to advocate for the adoption of budget trailer bill language (TBL) that enacts clear accountability, collaboration, and responsibilities for homelessness funding. Our diverse coalition made up of local governments, non-profits organizations, and business associations has come together to support achieving those goals through the adoption of the AT HOME plan, developed under the leadership of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). We are grateful for your leadership in supporting additional homelessness investments and an accountability framework in this year's state budget and want to highlight the relevant provisions of the AT HOME plan for your consideration as agreements are reached on the Budget Act and associated trailer bills.

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals in California. The AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) includes a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. The policy recommendations contained in the Accountability pillar form the core elements of a proposed comprehensive homelessness system with clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government. Our coalition is urging the adoption of these provisions as the Accountability framework for the budget trailer bill that is currently being negotiated.

Attachment C

CSAC has drafted language for the Accountability pillar and has shared with appropriate staff within the Administration and the Legislature. The core elements of the Accountability pillar include:

- Requiring local collaboration and submission of one countywide or regional homelessness plan.
- Requiring counties and cities to agree to a defined set of roles and responsibilities as a condition of receiving HHAP funding.
- Enacting strong accountability mechanisms including a corrective action plan.
- Providing ongoing HHAP funding to support the required plan.
- Establishing a three-year grant cycle to allow for multi-year outcomes and consistent funding levels.
- Funding the required plan through a fiscal agent that must be a county or city as they are accountable to constituents and have unique authority to site required infrastructure.
- Utilizing the required plan to determine allocations from the fiscal agent to subrecipients commensurate with their roles and responsibilities in the plan.
- Maintaining maximum local flexibility for use of HHAP funding consistent with the required plan.

True progress on homelessness can only be achieved when it is clear who is responsible for what, and when sustainable funding and accountability provisions are aligned with those defined responsibilities. That is what can be accomplished with the Accountability pillar of the AT HOME plan. The AT HOME Coalition for Accountability respectfully asks for your consideration. We look forward to a continued partnership on this urgent humanitarian issue.

Respectfully,

California State Association of Counties
Alliance for Community Transformations
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
Association of California Healthcare Districts
California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservator
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Church IMPACT
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Downtown Association
California Park and Recreation Society
California Public Defenders Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Sheriffs Association
Chief Probation Officers of California
Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce
Community Action, Service, and Advocacy
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Downtown San Diego Partnership
East Bay Leadership Council

Attachment C

Eastern Sierra Continuum of Care
Economic Roundtable
Latino Caucus of California Counties
Pathways to Housing
People Assisting the Homeless
Public Health Advocates
Rural County Representatives of California
Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce
Safe Family Justice Centers
San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce
San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Urban Counties of California
Yosemite Conservancy
Alameda County
Alpine County
Colusa County
Contra Costa County
Del Norte County
Fresno County
Inyo County
Lake County
Los Angeles County
Madera County
Marin County
Mariposa County
Merced County
Modoc County
Mono County
Monterey County
Nevada County
Orange County
Placer County
Riverside County
Sacramento County
San Benito County
San Diego County
San Luis Obispo County
Santa Barbara County
Santa Clara County
Santa Cruz County
Shasta County
Siskiyou County
Solano County
Tuolumne County
Yolo County
Yuba County



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.20510

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

Fire retardant is a fundamental tool used to slow wildfire advancement. Fire agencies have long-used fire retardant with the understanding that National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are not required due to fire control's classification as a silvicultural activity and based on Environmental Protection Agency communication dating back to 1993. However, this is an informal policy.

The Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act would codify an exemption for firefighting agencies to seek NPDES permits for the use of fire retardant against wildfire. The County of Riverside is home to two national forests, Cleveland, and San Bernardino, therefore, codifying this exemption gives our firefighting agencies the ability to use fire retardant to slow the advancement of wildland fires before they enter our wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities.

Our fire agencies have the unique challenge of protecting residents of the tenth most populous county in the United States in an area of over 7,300 square miles. Riverside County has been impacted by the ever-growing fire season and the inability for firefighters to access critical resources to fight fire before it enters our community could have devastating effects, especially in our WUI areas. The Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act ensures that our local fire agencies have the tools necessary to fight fires in our vast and populous County.

Attachment D

Codifying the NPDES exemption for firefighting agencies' use of fire retardant would allow our local fire agencies to effectively respond to wildfire using this fundamental tool. In doing so, fire agencies may continue to protect us and our communities without fear of violating the Clean Water Act.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 23, 2023

The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters’ abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

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The Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act would codify an exemption for firefighting agencies to seek NPDES permits for the use of fire retardant against wildfire. The County of Riverside is home to two national forests, Cleveland, and San Bernardino, therefore, codifying this exemption gives our firefighting agencies the ability to use fire retardant to slow the advancement of wildland fires before they enter our wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", is positioned above the typed name.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Calvert:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

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Our fire agencies have the unique challenge of protecting residents of the tenth most populous county in the United States in an area of over 7,300 square miles. Riverside County has been impacted by the ever-growing fire season and the inability for firefighters to access critical resources to fight fire before it enters our community could have devastating effects, especially in our WUI areas. The Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act ensures that our local fire agencies have the tools necessary to fight fires in our vast and populous County.

Attachment D

Codifying the NPDES exemption for firefighting agencies' use of fire retardant would allow our local fire agencies to effectively respond to wildfire using this fundamental tool. In doing so, fire agencies may continue to protect us and our communities without fear of violating the Clean Water Act.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

Attachment D



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Dr. Ruiz:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

Fire retardant is a fundamental tool used to slow wildfire advancement. Fire agencies have long-used fire retardant with the understanding that National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are not required due to fire control's classification as a silvicultural activity and based on Environmental Protection Agency communication dating back to 1993. However, this is an informal policy.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
2078 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Takano:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

Fire retardant is a fundamental tool used to slow wildfire advancement. Fire agencies have long-used fire retardant with the understanding that National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are not required due to fire control's classification as a silvicultural activity and based on Environmental Protection Agency communication dating back to 1993. However, this is an informal policy.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Issa:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", is positioned above the typed name.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Norma Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Torres:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

Attachment D



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Young Kim
1306 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023/
S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023
SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Kim:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (H.R. 1586)/ S. 796, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (S. 796). These critical pieces of legislation will protect firefighters' abilities to use a full array of effective tools to combat wildfires and protect our community.

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For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports H.R. 1586/S.796. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

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Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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June 12, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 444 (Addis): California Defense Community Infrastructure Program
As amended 5/18/23 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Senate Governance and Finance Committee**

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of Assembly Bill 444, Assembly Member Dawn Addis' measure that would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program under the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). This program would provide grant funds to assist local agencies in matching funds from the federal Defense Community Infrastructure Program or to assist local agencies in identifying, planning, or analyzing potential community infrastructure projects that may qualify for federal funds, upon appropriation.

AB 444 would provide an important opportunity for local agencies to secure federal resources to invest in military communities. Riverside County is home to March Air Reserve Base, which has had limited success in applying for DCIP funds. Having a state fund to help draw down DCIP funds would allow our County to pursue funds more strategically.

Specifically, AB 444 will allow local agencies to tap into expertise at OPR to secure resources for projects that will enhance military value at a military installation, that will enhance military installation resilience, and projects that will enhance military family quality of life in and around the March Air Reserve Base.

AB 444 promises to leverage important federal resources to assist our military communities. As a result, we strongly support AB 444. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera,

Attachment E

Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members and consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Dawn Addis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5350
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 444 (Addis): California Defense Community Infrastructure Program
As revised 4/19/23 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Addis:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of your Assembly Bill 444, a measure that would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program under the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). This program would provide grant funds to assist local agencies in matching funds from the federal Defense Community Infrastructure Program or to assist local agencies in identifying, planning, or analyzing potential community infrastructure projects that may qualify for federal funds.

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Sincerely,

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Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

Attachment F

cc: The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members and consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

Attachment G



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Member of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: AB 827 (Garcia) – Salton Sea Community Health Study
As introduced 2/13/2023 – SUPPORT
In Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 827, your measure that would direct the State Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct a study of the pulmonary health of communities in the Salton Sea region.

Straddling the Riverside-Imperial County line, the Salton Sea distinguishes itself as the state's largest inland lake with a water surface of more than 350 square miles, which is nearly twice the surface area of Lake Tahoe. Given its high salinity and reduced inflow from the Colorado River, the Salton Sea is steadily shrinking, which, in turn, results in increased exposure of the dry lakebed underneath. The region's frequent high winds and generally dry climate mean that dust and fine sediment from the exposed playa become airborne, which results in poor air quality and causes disproportionately high rates of asthma and other respiratory disorders.

Your measure would help determine whether and to what extent the environmental conditions associated with the Salton Sea are the cause of a distinct type of asthma in the region. Further, it would help assess whether other medical approaches are necessary to address associated public health risks. Additionally, the study contemplated in AB 827 seeks to assess whether specific toxins and chemicals associated with dust and particulate emanating from the lakebed are the root cause of pulmonary problems observed in communities close to the Salton Sea. Finally, the information gleaned from the DPH study also could help assess whether dust mitigation efforts currently being implemented in the Salton Sea region are effective.

As policy deliberations on AB 827 continue, we would respectfully request that provisions be incorporated into your measure requiring DPH to consult and work collaboratively with our local health department in planning for and conducting the pulmonary health study. Riverside County

Attachment G

is deeply invested in a health equity approach and believes our department would provide helpful and informed insights into the health challenges specific to the Salton Sea region.

Thank you for your leadership in highlighting the unique public health concerns for communities near the Salton Sea and in promoting efforts to better understand ways to mitigate health risks. For these reasons, the County of Riverside is pleased to support AB 827 and is committed to helping advance this measure through the legislative process.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1057 (Weber): California Home Visiting Program
As Introduced February 15, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 1057 by Assembly Member Akilah Weber. This bill would grant local health departments flexibility to administer the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) to equitably meet the unique needs of our communities.

Specifically, the bill would authorize local health departments to: 1) use any of the evidence-based models approved by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program; 2) utilize an alternative public health nursing model submitted to and approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and 3) authorize local health departments to supplement their home visiting program with mental health supports.

Currently, CDPH only allows three evidence-based home visiting models to be administered as part of the CHVP, while the federal MIECHV Program allows 20 evidence-based models to be administered. While we applaud the current models and the great impact they have, there are limitations. The three models currently in use do not allow LHJs to fully address families experiencing mental health issues, homelessness, perinatal substance use and other high-risk circumstances.

For example, in Riverside County mothers dealing with substance use disorders are better served by less intensive and shorter-term home visiting programs. However, our ability to support these women is limited because they are either not eligible for the current models or the current models don't allow for the types of services needed. The flexibility to implement additional models and/or to submit a public health nurse model for CDPH's approval will allow the County of Riverside Department of Public Health to expand their reach and impact of our home visiting programs.

Attachment H

Further, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Riverside has seen a growing need to provide enhanced support for our children and families. Currently, only one of the three CDPH approved models incorporate mental health supports. According to CDPH, one in five California women experience symptoms of depression during or after pregnancy. CDPH also states that Black and Latina women, women who have low incomes, or those who experienced hardships in their childhood or during pregnancy are at heightened risk of having symptoms of depression.

Allowing local health departments to supplement home visiting with mental health supports, including training for home visiting staff, will permit our County's visiting program to support more parents and families during the perinatal period where they are vulnerable to maternal mental health disorders.

AB 1057 gives local health departments additional tools to better meet the needs of families and children served by CHVP. It is for these reasons that the County of Riverside strongly supports AB 1057. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 11, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1168 (Bennett): Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS
As Amended May 1, 2023 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully oppose 1168, authored by Assembly Member Steve Bennett. AB 1168, as recently amended, seeks to overturn an extensive statutory and case law record that has repeatedly affirmed county responsibility for the administration of emergency medical services, and with that, the flexibility to design systems to equitably serve residents throughout their jurisdiction.

With the passage of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act in 1980, California created a framework for a two-tiered system of EMS governance through both the state Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and Local EMSAs (LEMSAs). Counties are required by the EMS Act to create a LEMSA system that is timely, safe, and equitable for all residents. To do so, counties honor .201 rights and contract with both public and private agencies to ensure coverage of underserved areas regardless of the challenges inherent in providing uniform services throughout geographically diverse areas.

Passage of this bill would disrupt established agreements and create a fractured system that focuses services on well-resourced cities and districts, creating further strain on the system as a whole and resulting in a disjointed network, the exact problem the EMS Act of 1980 intended to resolve.

Our County is especially concerned with the precedent set by AB 1168. Our LEMSA is tasked with overseeing services in over 7,300 square miles. Passage of this bill could allow for some of the County's 28 incorporated cities to deem themselves a .201 entity moving forward. This goes against the intentions of the EMS Act and has the potential of creating huge gaps in services, which puts already under resourced unincorporated communities at further risk.

We urge the legislature to think about the unintended health equity impacts posed by the passage of AB 1168. Riverside County has been focused on pursuing solutions that increase equitable access to emergency services. Our LEMSA is able take a holistic approach in looking at the equitable distribution of resources. Taking the incorporated cities out of the framework poses the risk of widening health equity gaps.

Attachment I

AB 1168 would dismantle state statute, regulations, and an extensive body of case law regarding the local oversight and provision of emergency medical services in California. This bill creates fragmented and inequitable EMS medical services statewide. For these reasons, the County of Riverside must oppose AB 1168. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Steve Bennett, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Greg Wallis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1448 (Wallis) – Cannabis: Enhanced Enforcement
Amended April 12, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wallis:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to support AB 1448, your measure that seeks to strengthen local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities. Like many other jurisdictions across the state, the County of Riverside is interested in securing additional tools to address the regulatory, taxation, environmental, health as well as public safety challenges associated with the unlicensed cannabis industry.

Regrettably, the illicit cannabis market continues to flourish despite legalization of recreational cannabis use more than seven years ago and considerable legislative efforts in the intervening years to curb ongoing, unlicensed, and unregulated activities. We appreciate that AB 1448 would enhance existing provisions in Business and Professions Code section 26038 to: (1) strengthen requirements around demonstrating that a person aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activities; (2) clarify the public prosecutors who may bring actions for civil penalties under this section; and (3) specify that if the action is brought by a public prosecutor at the local level then any civil penalties remaining after reimbursing local counsel for their associated costs would be split equally between the local entity and the state. We understand that the provisions in Section 2 of the bill regarding judgment and lien mechanism enforcement are being reworked and look forward to better understanding how this section of the bill may evolve to provide even greater enhancements to local enforcement actions.

The County believes that AB 1448 would create useful, appropriate, and thoughtfully crafted incentives for local governments to pursue statutory civil penalties associated with unlicensed cannabis operations. Importantly, revenues from these actions would then be available as a much-needed resource to reinvest in local enforcement efforts. For these reasons, the County of Riverside is pleased to support AB 1448, and we thank you for your leadership in this important policy area. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate

Attachment J

to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 21 (Umberg) – Civil actions: remote proceedings
As amended 2/23/2023 – SUPPORT
In Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 21, your measure that would extend the sunset provision applicable to the use of remote proceedings for specified civil court hearings. Under current law, the use of remote court proceedings is set to expire on June 30, 2023; SB 21 would extend that authority for a specified set of civil court proceedings through January 1, 2026.

The County of Riverside is one of the Cohort 1 counties preparing for the October 2023 implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act – which, pursuant to legislation that you authored last year (SB 1338 – Chapter 318, Statutes of 2022), creates a new civil court process to connect individuals with specific mental health diagnoses to an individualized care plan. Our multi-agency, cross-jurisdictional CARE Court Steering Committee has been actively engaged in a local planning process to ensure readiness for a responsive and coordinated approach to program implementation.

As part of its efforts to proactively advocate for opportunities that promote efficient CARE Act implementation, the Steering Committee has identified the use of remote civil proceedings for CARE court hearings as an important component of successful participant engagement and program outcomes. If the County can bring the CARE court process to respondents – many of whom may be unhoused – the likelihood of meaningful and sustained participation in the CARE proceedings will increase.

Absent a remote hearing option, real and very practical complications arise when an unhoused individual must leave behind personal possessions and/or pets to join an in-person court appearance; as a result, CARE court participants may choose to not take advantage of the CARE process and their individualized care plan. Additionally, the County of Riverside is ranked fourth

Attachment K

in sheer land mass among our state's 58 counties, therefore there is often a considerable geographic challenge among court users in accessing court facilities for in-person hearings. We believe SB 21 represents an important piece of achieving the larger goals envisioned in SB 1338 for the most vulnerable in our communities: breaking the cycles of homelessness and incarceration, promoting long-term recovery, and fostering safer and healthier communities across our state.

In addition to promoting greater efficiency and increasing court access more broadly, the County of Riverside supports SB 21 specifically because of its direct and meaningful application in the CARE court context. For these reasons, we are pleased to support your measure and thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 21 (Umberg) – Civil actions: remote proceedings
As amended 2/23/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 6/13/2023 – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Chair Maienschein:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 21, Senator Tom Umberg’s measure that would extend the sunset provision applicable to the use of remote proceedings for specified civil court hearings. Under current law, the use of remote court proceedings is set to expire on June 30, 2023; SB 21 would extend that authority for a specified set of civil court proceedings through January 1, 2026.

The County of Riverside is one of the Cohort 1 counties preparing for the October 2023 implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act – which, pursuant to legislation that you authored last year (SB 1338 – Chapter 318, Statutes of 2022), creates a new civil court process to connect individuals with specific mental health diagnoses to an individualized care plan. Our multi-agency, cross-jurisdictional CARE Court Steering Committee has been actively engaged in a local planning process to ensure readiness for a responsive and coordinated approach to program implementation.

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Absent a remote hearing option, real and very practical complications arise when an unhoused individual must leave behind personal possessions and/or pets to join an in-person court appearance; as a result, CARE court participants may choose to not take advantage of the CARE process and their individualized care plan. Additionally, the County of Riverside is ranked fourth

Attachment L

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In addition to promoting greater efficiency and increasing court access more broadly, the County of Riverside supports SB 21 specifically because of its direct and meaningful application in the CARE court context. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 21 and urge your committee's most positive consideration of this important measure.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Tom Umberg, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 22 (Umberg) – Remote proceedings
As amended 3/30/2023 – SUPPORT
In Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 22, your measure that would statutorily authorize the use of remote technology in juvenile justice and specified civil commitment proceedings through January 1, 2026. It is one of several measures you are authoring this year to extend sunset dates and otherwise authorize remote court proceedings.

Like many other jurisdictions in the state, the County of Riverside continues to face court backlogs, some of which remain following reductions in court operations during the pandemic. Additionally, challenges with timely case processing in our local justice system can be attributed to our region's well-documented shortage of judicial officers. The latest statewide Judicial Needs Assessment reveals that the County has the state's second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need; the superior court's current workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Population growth in the Inland Empire has outpaced the capacity of our local superior court system, despite the Legislature and Administration's approval of funding in the 2022-23 budget to support all previously authorized judicial positions.

More broadly, the County's geography is an important consideration in the context of remote technology in civil and criminal court proceedings alike. The County of Riverside has the fourth largest land mass among the 58 counties in the state. The expanse of our jurisdiction presents practical challenges to court users and their families who may be required to travel considerable distances for in-person proceedings; many regions of our county are quite remote and offer few if any public transportation options. Unfortunately, these real-life barriers reduce access to justice and often disproportionately impact low-income communities. SB 22 would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its County partners in addressing persistent

Attachment M

backlogs. Importantly, your measure would not require any party to appear remotely and contains provisions that allow the court to consider factors that may necessitate in-person appearances.

The County of Riverside appreciates your efforts to authorize – but not require – the use of remote technology in specific court proceedings. Among other benefits, SB 22 would promote access to justice, permit the court to be responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations that come before it, and facilitate more efficient use of limited judicial resources. For these reasons, we are pleased to support your measure.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 22 (Umberg) – Remote proceedings
As amended 3/30/2023 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Chair Maienschein:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 22, Senator Tom Umberg’s measure that would statutorily authorize the use of remote technology in juvenile justice and specified civil commitment proceedings through January 1, 2026. It is one of several measures before the Legislature that would extend sunset dates and otherwise authorize remote court proceedings.

Like many other jurisdictions in the state, the County of Riverside continues to face court backlogs, some of which remain following reductions in court operations during the pandemic. Additionally, challenges with timely case processing in our local justice system can be attributed to our region’s well-documented shortage of judicial officers. The latest statewide Judicial Needs Assessment reveals that the County has the state’s second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need; the superior court’s current workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Population growth in the Inland Empire has outpaced the capacity of our local superior court system, despite the Legislature and Administration’s approval of funding in the 2022-23 budget to support all previously authorized judicial positions.

More broadly, the County’s geography is an important consideration in the context of remote technology in civil and criminal court proceedings alike. The County of Riverside has the fourth largest land mass among the 58 counties in the state. The expanse of our jurisdiction presents practical challenges to court users and their families who may be required to travel considerable distances for in-person proceedings; many regions of our county are quite remote and offer few if any public transportation options. Unfortunately, these real-life barriers reduce access to justice and often disproportionately impact low-income communities. SB 22 would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its County partners in addressing persistent

Attachment N

backlogs. Importantly, your measure would not require any party to appear remotely and contains provisions that allow the court to consider factors that may necessitate in-person appearances.

The County of Riverside appreciates all efforts to authorize – but not require – the use of remote technology in specific court proceedings. Among other benefits, SB 22 would promote access to justice, permit the court to be responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations that come before it, and facilitate more efficient use of limited judicial resources. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 22 and urge your committee’s most positive consideration when this measure comes before you.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Tom Umberg, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 45 (Roth): Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund
As amended 5/18/23 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing: Assembly Health Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 45, Senator Richard Roth’s measure that would establish the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Revolving Loan Fund.

The Fund would serve to provide zero-interest loans to assist in financing acute care psychiatric hospital projects repayable over a 30-year period. Given the significant needs of our communities, Riverside County has prioritized investments in our behavioral health infrastructure; in fact, we are actively planning for the replacement of our existing facility with a modern, 100-bed facility that will better integrate mental health, substance use, and physical health services to achieve the best outcomes for our patients. SB 45 offers a significant opportunity to move this critical project forward to increase our capacity as a safety-net hospital and to provide timely, high quality, and patient-centered care that more fully meets the needs of our population.

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California and the tenth largest in the country. Over the past 30 years, the County has experienced dramatic population growth, and with it, demands for county services have increased similarly. According to the Healthy Places Index, the County has a disproportionately large share of underserved individuals and an already large and growing unmet demand for behavioral health services generally. These factors, coupled with a well-documented statewide and local shortage of acute care behavioral health beds, have resulted in an overwhelming burden on hospitals in our region. While the County has worked hard to expand services to support this ever-growing demand, we recognize that significant infrastructure investments are needed to deliver proper care.

Riverside County’s existing 1980’s Emergency Treatment Services/Inpatient Treatment Facility is outdated and, despite considerable renovations over the past four years, fails to adequately meet current state and federal guidelines. Some examples of the building’s shortfalls include:

- Access to building does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Lack of cafeteria and kitchen facilities on site.
- Lack of pediatric inpatient psychiatric services (services for this population do not currently exist in Riverside County).

Attachment O

- Inadequate emergency treatment area to allow for effective management of patient volume.
- Lack of private patient rooms and restrooms.

The County plans to replace this outdated facility with a modern, expanded facility on our existing Medical Center campus in Moreno Valley that includes an additional 180,000 square feet of space, housing 100 inpatient acute behavioral health beds, emergency treatment services, and space for support staff, as follows:

- Adult inpatient units: 4 units with 18 beds each
- Adolescent inpatient unit: 12-16 beds
- Pediatric inpatient unit: 12 beds (including potentially 6 combined pediatric behavioral health/medical beds)
- Emergency treatment services: Pediatric, adolescent, and adult patients will be served in separate, but adjacent spaces, and adjacent to the current Medical Center emergency room, as direct access to physical emergency medical services will not only improve efficiencies in care and service, but will reduce costs.

We anticipate the total cost of such a facility to be \$300-\$400 million.

We greatly appreciate the state's considerable investment in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) to provide additional resources to invest in treatment facilities across the state and are gratified for having been successfully awarded some funding from the program. However, in Riverside alone, our behavioral health infrastructure needs eclipse the entire statewide allocation of funds. Much more must be done to appropriately address behavioral health needs, particularly in underserved parts of the state and particularly in light of counties' responsibilities associated with CARE Court. SB 45 provides a critically needed opportunity for the state to help facilitate an investment in infrastructure that serves to improve patient outcomes for the betterment of us all.

To that end, we respectfully urge your most positive consideration of SB 45 when it comes before you for hearing. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee
The Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 75 (Roth) – Additional Superior Court Judgeships
As amended 3/20/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 6/20/2023 – Assembly Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support for SB 75, Senator Richard Roth’s measure that would create 26 additional superior court judgeships. This bill would go a long way toward providing relief to the trial courts and improving access to justice while assisting our county’s criminal justice partners in carrying out their critical functions and fulfilling core county responsibilities related to matters before the court.

As you are aware, the Judicial Council of California assesses superior courts’ workload and subsequently produces a biennial report regarding statewide judgeship needs. The Judicial Needs Assessment then prioritizes placement of additionally required judicial officers based on need. The latest assessment, published in fall 2022, identifies a need for 98 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands. Riverside County has the second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need – the superior court’s workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Even after funding 23 previously authorized judgeships in the 2022-23 budget, four of which were directed to the Riverside County Superior Court, the gap between local trial court workload and assessed judicial need remains vast. Steep population growth in Riverside County over the last several decades has greatly outpaced the trial court’s ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources.

SB 75 would take another necessary and appropriate step in addressing the clearly demonstrated shortfall in judicial resources across the state. For these reasons, the County of Riverside is pleased to support this important bill and encourages your most positive consideration when the measure comes before your committee. Thank you for considering our County’s perspective.

Attachment P

Thank you for your leadership. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 99 (Umberg) – Remote proceedings for criminal cases
As amended 4/10/2023 – SUPPORT
In Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 99, your measure that would extend provisions that authorize the use of remote proceedings in criminal cases from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2028.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reduced courts' ability to resolve cases given limitations on public gatherings during the associated stay-at-home orders. The Judicial Council took a number of emergency steps to adapt court operations during the pandemic, including authorizing the use of remote court proceedings. SB 99, which would extend for four years the current sunset applicable to remote hearings in criminal cases, is one of several measures this year to authorize – but not require – the use of remote technology in specified types of court proceedings.

Like many other jurisdictions in the state, the County of Riverside continues to face court backlogs, some of which are attributable to the pandemic-induced reductions in court operations. Additionally, court backlogs in our local justice system are tied to our region's well-documented shortage of judicial officers; the latest statewide Judicial Needs Assessment reveals that the County of Riverside has the second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need among all trial courts. The superior court's current workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Population growth in the Inland Empire has outpaced the capacity of our local superior court system in spite of the Legislature and Administration's approving funding in the 2022-23 budget for all previously authorized judicial positions.

More broadly, our County's geography is an important consideration in the context of remote technology in court proceedings. The County of Riverside has the fourth largest land mass among the 58 counties in the state. The expanse of our jurisdiction presents practical challenges to court

Attachment Q

users and their families who may be required to travel considerable distances for in-person proceedings; many regions of our county are quite remote and offer few if any public transportation options. Unfortunately, these real-life barriers reduce access to justice and disproportionately impact low-income communities. SB 99 would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs. We believe SB 99 includes appropriate safeguards that balance a variety of factors, including – importantly – a defendant’s constitutional rights.

The County of Riverside appreciates your efforts to authorize the use of remote technology in a variety of court proceedings. Among other benefits, SB 99 would promote access to justice, permit the court to be responsive to the needs of parties who come before it, and facilitate more efficient use of limited judicial resources. For these reasons, we are pleased to support your measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5210
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 99 (Umberg) – Remote proceedings for criminal cases
As amended 4/10/2023 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 99, Senator Tom Umberg’s measure that would extend provisions that authorize the use of remote proceedings in criminal cases from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2028.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reduced courts’ ability to resolve cases given limitations on public gatherings during the associated stay-at-home orders. The Judicial Council took a number of emergency steps to adapt court operations during the pandemic, including authorizing the use of remote court proceedings. SB 99, which would extend for four years the current sunset applicable to remote hearings in criminal cases, is one of several measures this year to authorize – but not require – the use of remote technology in specified types of court proceedings.

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Attachment R

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The County of Riverside appreciates legislative efforts this year to authorize the use of remote technology in a variety of court proceedings. Among other benefits, SB 99 would promote access to justice, permit the court to be responsive to the needs of parties who come before it, and facilitate more efficient use of limited judicial resources. For these reasons, we are pleased to support your measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Tom Umberg, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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May 15, 2023

Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 318 (Ochoa Bogh) – 211 information and referral network
As Introduced February 6, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 318 authored by Senator Rosilie Ochoa Bogh. This legislation would establish the 211 Support Services Grant Program, which would enhance and scale 211 services across California.

211 is a free information and referral gateway to access information on critical local health, human services, and economic supports. Working with non-profits and local public agencies throughout the state, 211 not only provides accurate information but can identify emerging needs as Californians struggle to stay economically secure. 211, which is funded with a patchwork of local resources, also relieves pressure on the critical 911 emergency systems by providing access to non-emergency help during times of economic insecurity, health emergencies, and natural disasters.

In recent years, 211 systems have experienced a significant increase in demand. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom and other public officials encouraged the public to use 211 services to access critical information and assistance. In Riverside County our local 211 helped individuals connect with resources ranging from vaccine appointments to rental assistance.

The 211 system has been vital in delivering information during the various natural disasters and increased wildfire season. In 2021, California's 211 providers answered over 2 million calls, averaging over 11,000 inquiries from Californians in need, every single day of the year. While emergency and other pandemic funding is coming to an end, Californians are still contacting 211 at near peak pandemic levels.

Additional state support is needed to help 211 service providers meet the continued high demand for 211 assistances. It is critical for the state to support safety net services to meet the needs of vulnerable communities. SB 318 would strengthen and enhance 211 services by:

- Supporting core 211 operations, capacity, and community engagement
- Innovating resource and community needs data sharing to health and government partners; and,
- Ensuring 211 availability across rural counties for disasters and full 211 service operability.

Attachment S

For these reasons, the County of Riverside is pleased to support SB 318, and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote on this bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

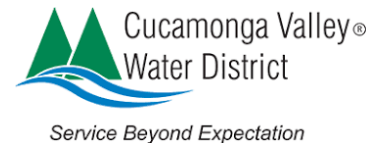
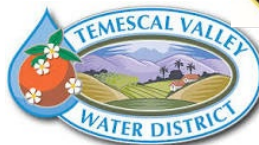
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Member, California State Senate
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, Riverside County Legislative Delegation

Attachment T



Attachment T



CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION
of WINEGRAPE
GROWERS



FLOOR ALERT*

SB 366 (Caballero) The California Water Plan: long term water supply targets SUPPORT

As water stakeholders from across the state, we urge your support for SB 366.

Let's create reliable and sufficient water supply for everyone

Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater, California needs additional supply that will provide enough water for all Californians, the environment, business and agriculture.

SB 366 will bring the fundamental changes that are necessary to ensure a sustainable water future. SB 366 will do the following:

- Transform water management in California taking us from a perpetual state of supply vulnerability to a reliable and sufficient water supply that is adequate for all beneficial uses.
- Create a new “North Star” water supply planning target for 2040 that the state will need to work toward along with a process to develop a target for 2050. This will complement and amplify Governor Newsom’s Water Supply Strategy and extend beyond any single Administration.
- Preserve the California way of life, supplying water to our homes and communities, habitat and environment, recreation and tourism, and business and economic success.
- Support economic vitality for all businesses, from restaurants to technology companies, and employers that depend on a reliable water supply.
- Fulfill the generational responsibility to develop a water system that will adapt to changes in the environment and allow the state to thrive now and for future generations.

SB 366 works within the structure of the current California Water Plan, which hasn’t been meaningfully updated for decades, and updates it for a 21st century climate. It is time to take action and set an aspirational target for California’s most precious resource, water.

VOTE “AYE” ON SB 366



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh): Undomesticated burros
As amended 4/12/23 – SPONSOR
Awaiting hearing: Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Dear Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 371, Senator Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh’s measure that would authorize a county to contract with a nonprofit entity to assist in the removal, relocation, and medical care of undomesticated burros. This important measure will assist the County to address public safety concerns associated with a growing population of undomesticated burros, while ensuring the protection of the burro population.

Undomesticated burros have been roaming Highgrove and Reche Canyon in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since the 1950s. Today, the burro population in the area is estimated to be well over 1,000, causing major traffic collisions on streets, highways, and railroads, several of which have resulted in deaths.

Although Riverside County Department of Animal Services is authorized to relocate burros under certain circumstances, a lack of staff and resources to treat, rehabilitate, and safely relocate injured burros has created a frustrating situation locally. A local shortage of veterinarians exacerbates this considerable challenge. The Inland Empire, however, is also home to private nonprofit partners who are dedicated to helping serve the burro population. These organizations have financial resources and a cast of dedicated volunteers, in addition to specialized veterinary resources. The County seeks the authority to contract with these nonprofit organizations to assist in managing the burro population, to ensure the health and wellbeing of the burro population and to improve public safety.

To that end, we respectfully urge your most positive consideration of SB 371 when it comes before you for hearing. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do

Attachment U

not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee
The Honorable Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate
County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Steve Padilla
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: SB 418 (Padilla) – California Prison Redevelopment Commission
As introduced 2/9/2023 – SUPPORT
In Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 418, your measure that would establish the California Prison Redevelopment Commission, specify its composition, and set forth its responsibilities with respect to developing recommendations on creative uses for repurposing closed state prison facilities.

As you are aware, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) recently announced the planned closure of the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) located in the City of Blythe that sits at the eastern edge of Riverside County. Despite the economic benefits and employment opportunities associated with being host to a state prison facility, Blythe is a disadvantaged rural community where more than 20 percent of its population live in poverty. If the closure of CVSP is carried out, more than 800 well-compensated jobs would evaporate – resulting quite literally in devastating economic impacts from which the region is unlikely to recover unless the facility is successfully repurposed. Our county will continue to advocate for alternatives and mitigations to this closure proposal.

As it relates specifically to your measure, SB 418 recognizes the need for longer-term planning and more comprehensive consideration of the impact of prison facilities closures statewide. We appreciate that your measure would incorporate community input into this process, focus on the needs of impacted communities, and drive toward a set of clear and credible recommendations for economic redevelopment opportunities of these important public assets. Given the state's stated objectives regarding further reduction of the state's carceral footprint, it is more important than ever to establish a thoughtful framework with a broad array of perspectives and expertise to inform decisions about sustaining economic resiliency in affected communities.

Attachment V

For these reasons, the County of Riverside is pleased to support SB 418. Thank you for your leadership in this area, and we look forward to an opportunity to participate in this important policy conversation in the months ahead. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Bob Archuleta
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 602 (Archuleta) – Trespass
As amended 3/20/2023 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Archuleta:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 602, your measure that would facilitate local governments' more efficient response to public nuisance and graffiti issues. As the Bill states, this will be accomplished by making several changes to the body of trespass law under Section 602 of the Penal Code. This measure awaits hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

SB 602 would extend, as specified, the operative timeframe for Letters of Agency. These are authorizations granted by a property owner, or agent for the owner, that gives permission to a local law enforcement agency to check on a business or property for trespassers and, if necessary, make associated arrests. The proposed extensions would be: (1) from 30 days to either 12 months, or a time period specified by local ordinance, for properties where there is a fire hazard or if the owner is absent and (2) from 12 months to three years for properties closed to the public and where notice is duly posted that the property is closed to the public.

Importantly, your measure also allows for electronic submission of the letters of agency. Other provisions in the measure specify that law enforcement assistance expires upon transfer of property ownership, unless the new owner notifies the local law enforcement agency or local government. With over 7,300 square miles to cover, this will streamline the County's ability to enforce trespassing issues across the County's vast geography.

Taken together, the provisions in SB 602 would facilitate enforcement of existing trespass laws and assist communities like the County of Riverside in addressing these issues. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

Cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Riverside County Delegation



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CEO

Graham Knaus

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
Chair, California Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 684 (Ta) County veterans service officers: additional resources - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, writes in support of AB 684, which would provide a stipend, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, to counties who maintain a county veterans service officer (CVSO) on each active United States (U.S.) military base in their county. These additional county resources will help our newly separating veterans access their full Federal and California benefits.

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) reports that claims filed through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the assistance of a CVSO have a higher rate of approval, demonstrating the value of CVSOs in guiding veterans through a complicated bureaucracy and connecting them to the benefits they deserve. Many veterans are unaware of the role CVSOs play and the resources they provide. In California the CACVSO reports that the state's ratio of veterans to Veterans Service Representatives (VSR) lags behind other states, resulting in a limited supply of VSRs available to service the largest veteran population of any state in the nation. Limited access to VSRs results in an estimated 65,000 veterans missing out on their benefits and roughly \$1.1 billion in VA benefits lost annually.

California is home to 32 active federal military installations across 21 counties. AB 684 will resolve this disparity and ensure that the tens of thousands of service members discharged from active duty each year in California receive access to an on-base CVSO and the veteran's benefits to which they are entitled. CVSO access expansion will help connect veterans to their well-deserved benefits, which will in turn help offset the high cost of living in California and assist veterans and their families remain in the state.

AB 684 will not only help bring Federal benefits to California but will also ensure the state is upholding its responsibility to its service members and assisting the transition to civilian

life. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of AB 684. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kdean@counties.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kalyn Dean".

Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

cc: The Honorable Tri Ta, 70th Assembly District
Members and Staff, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Graham Knaus

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 745 (Bryan) - Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program.
As Amended March 21, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee – April 19, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Holden,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of Assembly Bill 745 by Assembly Member Bryan. This measure would establish the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program at the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

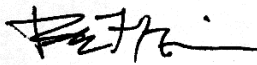
Specifically, AB 745 would provide competitive, five-year renewable grants through the HCD in coordination with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The grants from the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program would be available to counties to fund evidence-based housing and workforce development interventions to prevent individuals with recent histories of incarceration from becoming homeless, become gainfully employed, and remain stably housed. Counties will have the opportunity to apply for grants and use the funds for long-term rental assistance in permanent housing operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing, landlord incentives for security deposits and holding fees, as well as tenancy, wrap-around, and other critical services to assist individuals with exiting homelessness. Grant recipients will be required to report on the number of participants served, the types of services that were provided, program performance metrics, and the outcomes of program participants. Additionally, the program would require counties to implement core components of the Housing First model, which provides housing without pre-conditions and limits on length of stay.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to effectively address homelessness at every level – state, local, and federal. Through the AT HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes necessary to build an effective and accountable comprehensive homelessness system, including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. Upon appropriation of state funds, AB 745 would help achieve progress with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar and providing targeted support to a population that faces disproportionate challenges to housing. Roughly 70% of California's unsheltered homeless population are criminal justice involved. Given this high percentage, it is imperative that the justice-involved population receives the necessary services and resources that are essential for successful reentry. Access to housing is the most

critical and fundamental needs to prevent homelessness. Simply put, AB 745 aligns with our AT HOME plan to address homelessness and reduce recidivism by providing evidence-based housing, and employment and housing services to recently released and soon to be released individuals.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports AB 745 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMorimune', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Isaac Bryan, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allegra Kim, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus

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Inyo County

Past President

Ed Valenzuela
Siskiyou County

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Graham Knaus

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 745 (Bryan) - Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program.
As Amended March 21, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee – April 19, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Bryan,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of your measure Assembly Bill 745, which would establish the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program at the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

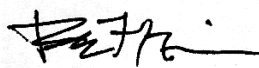
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To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to effectively address homelessness at every level – state, local, and federal. Through the AT HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes necessary to build an effective and accountable comprehensive homelessness system, including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. Upon appropriation of state funds, AB 745 would help achieve progress with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar and providing targeted support to a population that faces disproportionate challenges to housing. Roughly 70% of California's unsheltered homeless population are criminal justice involved. Given this high percentage, it is imperative that the justice-involved population receives the necessary services and resources that are essential for successful reentry. Access to housing is the most critical and fundamental needs to prevent homelessness. Simply put, AB 745 aligns with our AT

HOME plan to address homelessness and reduce recidivism by providing evidence-based housing, and employment and housing services to recently released and soon to be released individuals.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports AB 745. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMorimune', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate



May 16, 2023

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 965 (Carrillo) Local government: broadband permit applications
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED (*As Amended May 1, 2023*)

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) we write to share our regrettable Oppose Unless Amended position on Assembly Bill 965 (Carrillo), which would require local agencies to batch and process broadband permits and approve wireless applications within 60 to 90 days or have those applications deemed approved, without compliance with general health and safety requirements, unless a written finding of specific adverse impact to public health can be made.

AB 965 is described as a simple permit batching bill, necessary to deploy broadband infrastructure within the spending deadlines tied to source federal funding. However, this bill makes significant changes to California telecommunications law and local government permitting obligations, including:

Implementation of a “no limit” batching process.

The FCC batching requirements, while not limited in number, are limited to "small wireless facilities." AB 965 would apply more broadly to all broadband permitting which vastly expands the universe of projects. This bill requires a local jurisdiction to allow batching of no less than 50 broadband permits into a single application. Although it requires those 50 or more projects to be “nearly identical in terms of equipment and general design,” variables such as terrain, geographic location and size of project can make evaluation needs from application to application very different. For instance, laying five miles of fiber optic cable through the valley floor is different than installing 30 miles to fiber through granite laden foothills.

The FCC shot clocks for individual or batched applications include tolling of the time period if necessary. A local agency may demonstrate that more time is needed to process the application, as outlined in the deemed approved statute found in Government Code 65964.1. This section of law shifts the onus onto local agencies to seek judicial review and affirmatively demonstrates the need for more time, but does preserve a local government’s ability to do so. AB 965 removes these protections.

Removes a local government’s ability to protect the public health and safety.

Language included in Section 65964.3(f) of the bill states that AB 965 does not preclude a local agency from requiring compliance with “generally applicable health and safety requirements.” Yet, the same subdivision then requires a local agency to issue a written finding that the facility proposed in the broadband permit application would have a *specific* adverse impact on public health and safety in order to enforce applicable health and safety requirements. This provision applies to all applications, including for

facilities in the public right-of-way, creating potentially hazardous conditions on roadways, pedestrian walkways, surrounding buildings and to the general public.

Through the unprecedented funding allocated for broadband infrastructure in the last two years, the state and federal government have made it clear that closing the digital divide and ensuring equitable deployment of high quality and reliable broadband is a priority. Local governments, special districts and community-based organizations are stepping-up to fill the void and correct decades of digital redlining. AB 965 proposes to codify a statement in law that batching permits pursuant to this bill will help bridge the digital divide, as well as help the state meet federal funding deadlines, “while creating greater broadband equity amongst communities so more individuals can have access to high-speed internet” However, local jurisdictions currently have the ability, absent this legislation, to batch permits, expediate applications, and generally work to streamline the process of broadband deployment. Moreover, those jurisdictions that remain unserved and underserved, despite well over a decade of industry subsidization for deployment, are not the jurisdictions that lack willingness to work with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to streamline placement of telecommunication facilities. In actuality, unserved/underserved areas remain without reliable internet access because they are deemed by the ISPs to have inadequate Return on Investment (ROI). Creating a process to expediate permitting in a jurisdiction that does not offer an adequate ROI will not incentivize deployment in those areas but will instead make building in areas that posse greater potential ROI, like those with existing infrastructure, more lucrative. This bill will not aid bridging the digital divide but will just make it more profitable to build in dense, higher cost markets.

Local governments are committed to providing robust internet access to our communities and have worked collaboratively in the past with industry partners to improve our processes while maintaining important local safeguards, including negotiating in 2021 several additional protections into Government Code 65964.1 that contained specific language to address work in the public right-of-way, which would be abrogate by the provisions of AB 965.

We appreciate the amendments the author took in policy committee narrowing the applicability of the shot clock provisions to only wireless facilities, however we continue to be gravely concerned for the reasons outlined herein and respectfully urge your “No” vote. If you have any questions, please contact us at the email addresses below.

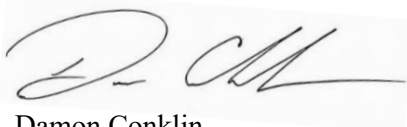
Sincerely,



Tracy Rhine
Legislative Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
TRhine@rcrcnet.org



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
kdean@counties.org



Damon Conklin
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
California League of Cities
dconklin@calcities.org

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Assembly District 39
Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



May 10, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1504 (McCarty) Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Permit Applications.
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED *(As amended April 11, 2023)*

Dear Chair Holden,

The undersigned organizations regrettably must **oppose unless amended AB 1504 (McCarty)**, which would require local jurisdictions to develop and complete a plan for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) in the public right-of-way that includes a permitting process.

Local jurisdictions throughout California are supportive of helping the state address climate change and achieve its landmark greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. For years, local jurisdictions have been leaders in supporting projects and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving water and energy efficiency, increasing the diversion of materials away from landfills, and expanding access to renewable energy resources. Additionally, cities and counties across the state are streamlining and administratively approving EVCS permit applications to meet the state's ambitious zero-emission vehicles and EVCS goals.

AB 1504, as amended April 11th, requires a local agency to consult with local departments, energy providers, building, planning and transportation departments, as well as include the proposed EVCS plan in the next public hearing. Additionally, AB 1504 would require local agencies to complete an assessment on EVCS in the private right-of-way, identify planning and permitting barriers to EVCS and to evaluate competing uses in the public right of way. Moreover, AB 1504 requires local agencies to complete an equity analysis to determine locations for EVCS in the public right of way, as well as develop site-specific design requirements and identify necessary updates to relevant code of the local agency.

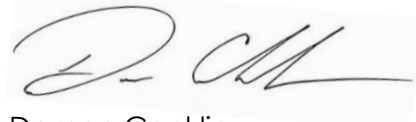
While we support greater transparency and governmental efficiency, these proposed mandates appear duplicative in nature in the gathering and assessment of information that are typically considered when a local jurisdiction reviews EVCS applications and we are unaware of impediments in the current process that are preventing the deployment EVCS throughout the state.

Pursuant to AB 1236 (Chiu, 2015), cities and counties must adopt a streamlining ordinance and checklist. AB 970 (McCarty, 2021) adds specific binding timelines to that review period based on the size of the project and clarifies parking requirements. All cities and counties, including charter cities, continue to work to comply with both AB 1236 and AB 970. Despite these existing efforts, AB 1504 requires a costly planning process without an allocation from the state or including any specific explicit fee authority on EVCS permitting for cost recovery to comply with the proposed mandates contained in this measure.

Existing local regulations are not barriers to EVCS deployment, but rather a process, overseen by engineers, safety, and design professionals to protect the public from hazards. California cities have finite resources but must process EVCS permits, as mandated by state law, with truncated timetables that place them ahead of other permittees with projects related to affordable housing, rebuilding disaster-stricken areas, approving Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, and reviewing rooftop solar panel projects, just to name a few.

For these reasons, we must regrettably oppose AB 1504, unless amended to be contingent on a future appropriation or contain explicit fee authority on EVCS permitting to recover costs associated with the various requirements proposed by this measure. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Damon Conklin (Cal Cities) at dconklin@calcities.org, Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at trhine@rcrcnet.org or Mark Neuburger (CSAC) at mneuburger@counties.org

Sincerely,



Damon Conklin
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities



Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Tracy Rhine
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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Inyo County

Past President

Ed Valenzuela
Siskiyou County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CalFresh Administration Budget Methodology

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assembly Member Arambula:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to share our support for the Governor's May Revision proposal to revise the budgeting methodology for county administrative costs for the CalFresh program. This new budgeting methodology will result in new total funding of \$406.5 million (\$159.5 million General Fund; \$192.5 million federal funds; and \$54.5 million county funds).

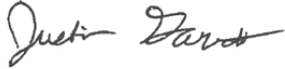
Counties are responsible for administering the CalFresh program, which provides essential nutrition benefits to the many Californians who are struggling with food insecurity and access to healthy food. County workers conduct eligibility determinations, manage cases, and respond to program inquiries. Unfortunately, the existing outdated budgeting methodology resulted in inadequate staffing levels, longer wait times for access to the program, and an inability to effectively keep up with increased demand.

The new budgeting methodology is the result of several years of engagement between the Administration and counties. Utilizing information from a statewide county survey and other data, the methodology revises the eligibility worker costs and workload assumptions, provides ongoing funding for applications and differentiated caseload types, and funds mandated activities, such as fair hearings and program integrity. While the new methodology does not factor in costs for inflation moving forward, current law does require it to be revisited in three years. This will allow opportunities for further refinement and engagement. CSAC appreciates the collaboration with counties by the Administration on developing this new methodology. With this increased funding, counties will be able to administer the program in a timely and accurate manner so that Californians can quickly gain access to these important benefits.

In addition, increased funding for CalFresh county administration is consistent with the goals and policy recommendations found in AT HOME, the county comprehensive plan to address homelessness. Developed through a lengthy all-county effort, the AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) outlines clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government within a comprehensive homelessness response system. It includes a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. The new budgeting methodology aligns with the policy recommendation in the Mitigation pillar to ensure adequate funding for county administration of safety net programs to ensure eligible individuals can receive the services they need.

For all of these reasons, CSAC supports the revised budgeting methodology for CalFresh county administration. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or jgarrett@counties.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Committee
Megan DeSousa, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance
Angela Pontes, Office of Governor Newsom



May 17, 2023

The Honorable María Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate and Budget Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 5
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
No. 5
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Issue 5225 – California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Division of Juvenile Justice Closure
Budget Issue 5227 – Board of State and Community Corrections; Public Defense Pilot Program and PRCS Funding**

Dear Chairs Durazo and Bonta:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in response to the Governor’s May Revision to offer the county perspective on three budget items in your subcommittees’ jurisdiction: (1) the imminent closure of the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the lack of resources associated with the population of youth and young adults who will transfer back to their county of commitment; (2) the Governor’s proposal – unchanged from the January budget – to eliminate the third and final year of funding from the Public Defense Pilot Project; and (3) the adjusted funding level to support PRCS caseload impacts.

Item 5225: DJJ Realignment – County Resources Needed for Returning Youth

As updated in the May Revision, approximately 150 young people will remain in the care and custody of DJJ on the final closure date of June 30, 2023. A vital component to the successful transition of this population to county care remains notably absent –county resources to ensure the appropriate programs and placements are available to fully support the youth and young adults once in local custody and care. When DJJ Realignment was conceived and enacted via SB 823 in 2020, the realignment design contemplated a prospective transfer of responsibility beginning on July 1, 2021; resources for those youth accompanied the shift in responsibility and were enumerated

in statute. Importantly, the SB 823 model also contemplated that youth who already were placed in a DJJ facility as of July 1, 2021 would finish their custody term in the state's care, and DJJ facilities would close only after all youth had been discharged. That key element of the realignment design changed with the enactment of SB 92 in 2021, which – among other provisions – set a hard closure date for DJJ facilities on June 30, 2023. Neither that bill nor any subsequent measure provides resources to support the treatment or housing needs of the returning DJJ population.

Successful reintegration of this particular population of young people in their home communities and longer-term success demonstrated by recidivism reduction can only be achieved if resources accompany the transfer of this high-need population. The vulnerability and destabilization caused by the move out of a state facility heighten the need for a seamless transfer into an individually designed treatment plan and developmentally appropriate therapeutic setting best suited to address the young person's needs. We would urge the Legislature to provide resources to counties in specific recognition of local responsibilities associated with providing a healing environment and facilitating needed treatment for those transitioning from the state to county care.

Item 5227: Public Defense Pilot Project – Restoration of Third Year of Funding Needed

As was noted in our March advocacy letter, our associations remain very appreciative of the Legislature's commitment to providing resources for the provision of indigent criminal defense services at the local level. Since 2021-22, the state budget has dedicated funding to support resentencing workloads in recognition of recent law changes. The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget would eliminate the third and final year of this funding at a time when counties' efforts to fulfill the promise of the Public Defense Pilot Program are demonstrating meaningful impact, and that proposal remains unchanged in the May Revision. We urge the Legislature to retain the final year of funding to allow the pilot program to fulfill its promise.

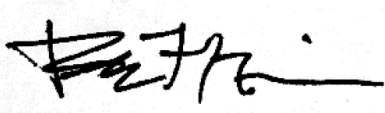
Item 5227: Funding for Post-Release Community Supervision – Support May Revision Adjustment

Finally, counties also support the state's continued investment in addressing Post-Release Community Supervision caseload impacts to counties resulting from implementation of various state prison population reduction strategies, including Proposition 57 – the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016. The May Revision

appropriately increases the budget year amount by \$1.1 million as compared to the January spending plan. CSAC, RCRC, and UCC strongly support the \$9.3 million, which reflects the amount necessary to address probation workload associated with individuals released early to probation supervision.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for a continued partnership in carrying out local initiatives.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate
CSAC
rmorimune@counties.org



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Advocate
UCC
ehe@hbeadvocacy.com

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5



May 16, 2023

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: May Revision Proposal for CARE Act Funding – CONCERNS

Dear Director Stephenshaw, Chair Skinner, and Chair Ting:

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) write to express our appreciation for the updated level of funding proposed in the May Revision for counties to implement the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. We acknowledge the revised proposal reflects progress made during discussions with our county associations to refine the ongoing impacts of the CARE Act, but we request additional consideration of the following issues outlined below.

Based on county fiscal estimates, the level of ongoing funding for counties proposed in the May Revision by the Administration (\$151.5 million) is inadequate to ensure the successful implementation of the new court process associated with the CARE Act. While the overall impact to counties will depend on factors yet to be determined such as the annual number of CARE Act petitions submitted and the number of qualifying respondents, drawing upon the state's caseload estimates, counties estimate CARE Act process costs upon full implementation will total \$398.4 million annually.

Further, the May Revision proposal lacks clarity about how counties will receive funds. Without an agreed-upon funding mechanism, Cohort 1 counties cannot adequately plan for implementation. The CARE Act process is statutorily required to begin by October 1 of this year for seven counties (Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne), and Los Angeles County is anticipated to begin by December 1 of this year. For Cohort 1 to be ready to implement in less than five months, counties need an allocation methodology that expeditiously distributes funding.

The implementing legislation, SB 1338 (Umberg/Eggman), conditions operation of the CARE Act upon the development of an **allocation**, in consultation with county stakeholders, to provide state financial assistance to counties to implement the “CARE process.” Statute further defines the CARE process as “the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act.” The Governor’s Budget proposal included an estimate of funding for county behavioral health agency costs to administer the CARE Act, but the Administration acknowledged in budget documents that the amount was a placeholder and that, “The Administration will continue to work with counties and stakeholders to refine the ongoing program cost estimate.”

The Legislature and county stakeholders have been clear that adequate funding to counties would be required to develop and implement this new process, as counties play a key and substantial role in implementation as the state’s partners in providing critical behavioral health assessments and care, social services, and housing resources. The CARE Act imposes new mandated activities on counties, which include new CARE process workload for county behavioral health agencies, county counsel, and public defenders.

Our county organizations have met with the Administration several times to discuss and provided detailed fiscal estimates outlining the fiscal impacts to affected county agencies. Counties appreciate the adjustments reflected in the May Revision to further support state and county agency costs for planning and implementation, however, counties express the following outstanding concerns with the May Revision fiscal estimate for CARE Act costs:

- **Behavioral health agency costs underestimated:** The May Revision includes \$151.5 million in ongoing support for behavioral health agency costs. In contrast, counties estimate ongoing annual costs to behavioral health agencies *based on the state’s own projected caseload*¹ at \$251 million upon full implementation. However, counties anticipate the number of petitioners and respondents will be greater, especially during the initial years of program implementation, necessitating additional resources.

The county estimate utilizes an evidence-based average hourly rate of \$117, which accounts for various provider types and associated benefits, as well as overhead/administration impacts. Behavioral health agency staff will perform numerous activities throughout the CARE process, and the county estimate includes resource considerations for court appearances, preparation and coordination, noticing, care plan development, case management, housing services/ supports, and outreach/engagement by county behavioral health. Adequate funding for county behavioral health departments is essential to the success of the CARE Act. With additional adjustments to caseload, hourly rates, continued hearings and other adjustments, counties’ own estimates would require \$520 million ongoing at full implementation. The Judicial Council’s recently adopted CARE Act Rules, which require notice of *every single hearing* to be personally served on the respondent (a cost that was not anticipated in with the May Revision or the counties’ estimates) will increase counties’ CARE process costs even further.

- **Funding for counties’ legal representatives must be included:** Troublingly, the May Revision does not include any funding for one critical component of the CARE process: the county’s legal representative (i.e., County Counsel, or the City Attorney’s Office in San Francisco). CARE Court

¹ 14,000 petitions, with 12,000 respondents proceeding to an initial hearing.

is a judicial process, with numerous required filings and multiple evidentiary hearings, in which the county behavioral health agency is a mandatory participant. Moreover, the county has specific legal duties throughout the CARE process – and the central product of this process, the CARE plan, is a legal document that must meet statutory standards, and be approved by a judge.

County counsel will represent county behavioral health at initial appearance and merits hearings, as well as provide pre-court preparation and legal support to behavioral health agencies for the engagement of respondents, supporters, counsel, and other stakeholders to attempt to engage respondents into CARE agreements between eligibility and case management hearings. County counsel will also review CARE plans as well as draft court filings related to clinical evaluations and capacity issues. The CARE process is a court process where representation of all parties is a necessity, and the expectation of any judge. These functions simply cannot be accomplished without the participation of the county's counsel. There is no mechanism for non-attorney employees to represent the county in court – and even were that possible, no responsible public agency would attempt it, and no judge would tolerate it. The CARE Act Rules recently adopted by the Judicial Council repeatedly acknowledge the role of the county behavioral health agency's counsel, and the budget must do likewise. Simply put, as specified in SB 1338, "the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act" requires attorneys, and funding for those services is needed for CARE Court to work. (The state's obligation and practice of funding the county's counsel in similar state-mandated legal proceedings is well-established, including child welfare cases, sexually violent predator proceedings, and Individual Education Plan hearings for students with disabilities.)

The May Revision does not include funding support for county counsel activities; however, given the significant and consistent participation of county counsel in the new CARE process, dedicated and ongoing funding support for these activities must be included within county CARE Court funding for this new court process to be implemented. The estimated annual costs to support county counsel activities statewide are \$87 million, based on the Administration's caseload assumptions.

- **Mechanism/timing for public defender support costs unclear:** Although the CARE Act specifies the appointment of, and state funding for, qualified legal services projects to represent respondents in CARE Act proceedings, the provision of legal services projects is contingent on whether a legal services project "has agreed to accept these appointments." To counties' knowledge, no qualified legal services projects have yet indicated such agreement *anywhere in the state*, nor does there appear to be a process in place for this to occur in Cohort 1 counties prior to October. To the extent the capacity, availability, or willingness of legal services projects are insufficient to serve this population, this representation will be handled by public defenders. The May Revision provides funding to the Judicial Council for qualified legal services projects and public defenders through the Legal Services Trust Fund of the State Bar, however it is unclear how the funding mechanism/process will work should these services be largely provided by public defenders. For representation to be available on October 1, 2023, a funding mechanism to reimburse public defenders for cost must be in place. Moreover, the amount of funding must be sufficient for the legal services actually required, regardless of who provides them.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns outlined above. We look forward to continued engagement with you to discuss funding and implementation updates that will maximize success for the CARE Act, and most importantly, best support the people it intends to serve. Should you have any questions regarding our concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer
CSAC
jwh@counties.org



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs
RCRC
mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org



Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA
mcabrera@cbhda.org

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Budget
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Staff Director, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant, Office of Speaker Rendon
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Atkins
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Atkins
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health, CalHHS
Ann Paterson, Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Newsom
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: May Revision Restoration of \$49.8 million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our support and gratitude for your May Revision proposal to rescind the Administration's January proposal to cut \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs. Our organizations additionally applaud your Administration's maintenance of its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health and nationwide, and public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for community spread and outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

It is for these reasons that our organizations express our support and gratitude for rescinding the January proposal to reduce funding for public health workforce training and development programs.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California

As signed by

Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California

As signed by

Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

As signed by

Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

As signed by

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

As signed by

Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, California Senate
Honorable Members, California Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Policy Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health

Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

Date: May 15, 2023

To: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on HHS

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on HHS

RE: May Revision Restoration of \$49.8 million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our support for the Governor's May Revision proposal rescinding his January proposal to cut \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs. Our organizations additionally applaud the Newsom Administration for maintaining its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health and nationwide, and public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for poor health outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

Our organizations appreciate the Legislature's leadership in prioritizing public health and

respectfully request the adoption of Governor Newsom's May Revision rescinding the proposed cuts to public health workforce training and development programs.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of California

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California

As signed by

Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California

As signed by

Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

As signed by

Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

As signed by

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

As signed by

Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus

Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus

Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health

Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom



May 11, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7630
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 408 (Ashby): Child Welfare Services for Foster Youth with Complex Needs
As Amended May 3, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of SB 408 (to establish programs and services to support foster youth and youth at risk of foster care with significant trauma and complex needs. This investment is needed to ensure no youth are left behind in California's continuing effort to implement Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

Counties have embraced the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), implemented through AB 403 (Stone, Ch. 773, Statutes of 2015), to reduce the use of congregate care and improve permanency and other outcomes for foster youth. CCR has resulted in profound shifts in child welfare practices and has helped to improve outcomes for many – but not all - children, youth and families. Improvements in practices include the use of child and family teaming to ensure youth and family voice in case management and placement decisions, statewide use of the Resource Family Approval process to align and streamline licensing and approval for families, increases in foster care rates, and use of a universal child strengths and needs assessment tool. CCR resulted in significant reductions in the use of congregate care and a greater focus on supporting children and youth in family-based settings.

However, CCR was not designed to serve some of our foster youth who have experienced severe trauma and/or have complex physical, behavioral, and other needs. County child welfare agencies collaborate diligently with their system partners – mental health plans, care providers, regional centers, educational agencies, etc., – to care for youth with severe trauma and/or complex care needs, but challenges remain. Higher-level treatment services are not always available at the moment they are needed, and providers are not always able to offer the intensive care needed by some youth. As a result, these youth often experience multiple placement disruptions and hospitalizations, and sometimes stay in unlicensed settings, while social workers seek other appropriate services and treatment settings. Unfortunately, this further exacerbates a youth's trauma and is likely to lead to poor outcomes.

SB 408 would establish up to ten regional health teams across the state to improve assessments and timely access to needed services (physical, mental health, substance use, etc.), perform comprehensive case management in coordination with other child-serving systems, and ensure appropriate follow-up to prevent placement disruptions with families and care coordination for youth stepping down from

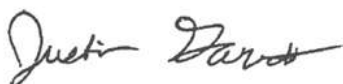
hospitals or other settings. This approach is critical to preserving families, preventing disruptions in family-based foster care, and identifying and supporting families as early as possible to reduce trauma.

SB 408 would also require the department to develop an enhanced funding model for short-term residential therapeutic programs serving up to four current or former foster youth with complex needs. This funding would be conditional on requirements that the program accept all children and NMD's referred by the Child Welfare Agency, that the program serves children until they can be appropriately transitioned, and that the program hold beds open if a child is temporarily transferred to a hospital or crisis mental health in-patient care setting for a period of 14 days.

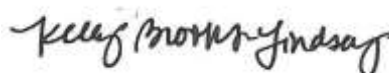
Finally, this bill would convert one-time funds provided to counties into an on-going appropriation of funding from the State Department of Social Services to build and sustain complex care programs and practices. The bill's funding provisions will allow counties to more immediately and effectively serve children, youth, and families with complex needs.

SB 408 will help county child welfare agencies preserve families and improve services to our youth with significant trauma and/or complex needs. For the above reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC are in support of this measure.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby, Member, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore of the State Senate
1021 O street, Room 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Reject Deferral and Supplantation of Broadband Infrastructure Funding

Dear Legislative and Budget Committee Leadership:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we write to respectfully express our opposition to the California State Assembly's plan to cut \$625 million in last-mile broadband infrastructure funding and defer an additional \$950 million to the next three fiscal years. The Assembly's plan also reduces state middle-mile funding by \$125 million and proposes to backfill that loss, as well as the \$625 million in last mile funding, with future federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding. Although we appreciate that the Legislature and the Administration must be cautious in uncertain fiscal times, deferring this investment in broadband infrastructure will directly harm the most disenfranchise communities in California for decades to come.

Universal access to high-speed internet is critical to the state's economy, education, health, and well-being. Investment in broadband connectivity is one of the essential ingredients in continuing to ensure California's vitality and dynamism. The pandemic significantly underscored the importance of making broadband accessible and affordable to all Americans, which prompted the federal government to pass a series of funding acts to spur broadband deployment across the country. Likewise, in 2021, the state Legislature and Governor made an unprecedented \$6 billion investment in expanding internet connectivity to all Californians. This investment in infrastructure included a state-owned middle mile, last mile infrastructure funding programs (Federal Funding Account and Loan Loss Reserve Fund), and a technical assistance program to support local agencies and tribal governments in planning for and deploying reliable broadband in their communities. The non-tribal local agency funding is currently oversubscribed and less than \$1 million is left in the tribal government technical assistance account.

In a 2020 report, the CPUC estimated that more than \$8 billion would be needed to connect all Californians. It is imperative that state investments continue as budgeted in 2021, as costs of

Legislative and Budget Committee Leadership
Reject Deferral and Supplantation of Broadband Infrastructure Funding
June 8, 2023
Page 2

materials and labor will increase, prolonging the digital divide at a time when we should be working to quickly bridge this gap. Further, the Loan Loss Reserve Fund is intended to provide municipalities and non-profits finance securitization for private investments to construct and operate new public fiber networks. At a time of interest rate pressure, the Loan Loss Reserve Fund is invaluable in helping local governments obtain better borrowing rates and terms for bonds issued to deploy broadband infrastructure.

Lastly, supplanting state investment in broadband infrastructure with BEAD funding not only delays funding (BEAD will not be available until June 2024), but also jeopardizes California's total allocation, estimated to be anywhere from \$900 million - \$2 billion. The authorizing statute, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, states that the "Grant funds awarded to an eligible entity... shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, the amounts that the eligible entity would otherwise make available for the purposes for which the grant funds may be used."¹ Therefore, we believe that the BEAD funding cannot, and should not, be used to supplant the state's original investment in broadband infrastructure.

As the state faces a budget shortfall, we recognize the difficult decisions that must be made. We respectfully request that the Legislature continue the investments made in California's future by restoring original funding to the middle mile program, the Federal Funding Account and the Loan Loss Reserve fund. A delay in broadband infrastructure funding will ultimately lengthen the timeframes for construction and attempting to utilize BEAD funding to backfill state obligations possibly jeopardizes billions of dollars in additional federal broadband funding. Further, with inflation continuing to pressure the state and the nation, delays will only make broadband infrastructure more expensive to build due to the costs of labor and material, which will likely rise in the near future. These delays matter to the families, schools, and small businesses without service or with inadequate service, or who live in a connectivity monopoly.

We look forward to collaborating with you in the coming weeks to ensure affordable internet access for all. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact me at Kalyn Dean at kdean@counties.org, Tracy Rhine at Trhine@rccrcnet.org, and Damon Conklin at Dconklin@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
RCRC



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



Damon Conklin
Legislative Representative
Cal Cities

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

¹ SEC. 60102.(I) (47 USC 1702)



OFFICERS

President

Chuck Washington
Riverside County

1st Vice President

Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

2nd Vice President

Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

Past President

Ed Valenzuela
Siskiyou County



CEO

Graham Knaus

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal
Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on
Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Governor's Infrastructure Package - Trailer Bill Proposals

**SUPPORT: Administrative Records Review
CEQA Judicial Streamlining
Fully Protected Species Reclassification
Progressive Design-Build**

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, is pleased to support the following proposed trailer bills within the Governor's Infrastructure package, including:

- **Administrative Records Review** - This proposal clarifies and streamlines procedures related to the preparation of the public record for the judicial review of level challenges brought under CEQA in order to reduce the litigation time.
- **CEQA Judicial Streamlining** - The proposed trailer bill language would provide for expedited judicial review of challenges to certain water, transportation, clean energy, and semiconductor or microelectronic projects under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- **Fully Protected Species Reclassification** - The bill would reclassify the 37 fully protected species so that 15 will be listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), 19 will be listed as endangered under CESA, and three will have no listing status and would retain the protections afforded to species generally under the Fish and Game Code.
- **Progressive Design-Build** - This language would allow the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to establish a progressive design-build pilot program until 1/1/2031.

CSAC welcomes the Governor's efforts to make statutory reforms to expedite the delivery of projects. Although many of the other bills could help counties and local governments

deliver projects faster, we were disappointed to learn that they were limited to state agencies.

However, we applaud the Governor's proposal to extend Progressive Design-Build to Caltrans and look forward to the administration's support for SB 706 by Senator Caballero, a bill that CSAC is co-sponsoring to provide Progressive Design-Build authority to counties and other local governments.

We look forward to continuing the conversation to make reasonable statutory changes to ensure that county infrastructure projects are delivered in an expedient and efficient manner and urge the Legislature to work with the Administration to adopt these proposals as part of this year's State Budget process.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Christine Aurre, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
The Honorable Senator Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
The Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
The Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Committee
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Committee
The Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Budget
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7330
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 386 (Nguyen): California Right to Financial Privacy Act
As Amended April 27, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing June 13, 2023 Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of AB 386 by Assembly Member Nguyen. This bill will improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from the growing threat of financial abuse.

County APS Departments are responsible for investigating alleged incidences of abuse of older and dependent adults, including financial abuse. This role is expanding with the population that APS serves, which has grown and changed significantly since the program's inception. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older— double what the over-65 population is today. Many of these individuals will also be disabled, cognitively impaired, or facing housing instability. County APS programs struggle to address an evolving landscape of abuse and neglect, including an increase of financial abuse and scams targeting this growing population. As of 2021, California ranks first nationally in total monetary losses, and third in per-capita monetary losses, experienced by victims of elder financial abuse.¹

County APS investigators experience restrictions that impede their ability to protect victims. Once an APS investigator has been granted access, they are restricted to only financial records dating from a period of 30 days before and after the date of any alleged illegal activity (60 days total). Limiting access to such a narrow window of time makes it significantly harder for APS to identify normal spending habits of the alleged victim, which is necessary to identify abnormal and potentially illegal activity.

¹ 2021 DOJ Elder Fraud Report: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1523276/download>

Page 2

June 7, 2023

AB 386 (Nguyen) – CSAC/UCC/RCRC – SUPPORT

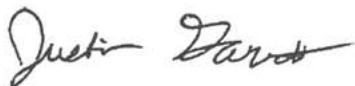
Additionally, APS is severely limited in the types of financial information that they can access. APS is excluded from accessing information that counties have identified as potentially critical to uncovering financial abuse and scams. This includes information related to newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

AB 386 is intended to address the challenges posed by these tight restrictions. This bill will assist APS in effectively investigating allegations of abuse by: 1) extending the period for which APS can request records to 90 days prior and 60 days following the alleged illegal act, and 2) expanding the types of items APS can request from a bank or financial institution to include information regarding newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

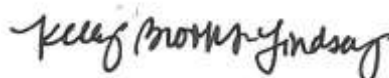
The changes included in this bill will better ensure that APS is able to meet the needs of the growing population of older and dependent adults and uncover incidences of financial abuse. In better protecting victims from identity theft and abuse, this bill ultimately improves victims' privacy from those who would do them harm.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC are pleased to SUPPORT AB 386, and respectfully request your "Aye" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Nguyen
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Graham Knaus

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 400 (Rubio) Local agency design-build projects: authorization
As Amended on May 1, 2023 – SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Caballero:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, is proud to sponsor Assembly Bill 400 by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, which would allow local governments to continue the utilization of existing state law which allows them to use the Design-Build (DB) procurement process for qualifying public works projects. This bill achieves this by extending the existing January 1, 2025 sunset date to January 1, 2031 on the statutory DB authority.

Existing statute enacts more uniform provisions authorizing most local agencies, counties included, to use the DB procurement process for specified public works projects within Public Contract Codes Sections 22160-22169, which excludes roads but includes buildings, utility improvements associated with buildings, flood control, underground utility improvements, and bridges.

The DB method is an approach to delivering public works projects in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity. Under design-build, the owner contracts with a single entity to both design and construct a project at a fixed price. Simultaneously, contractors are provided with more flexibility over project design, materials and construction methods. This promotes project design and construction innovation, which can result in higher quality, as well as cost savings. The approach also reduces the county and local agencies' risk and results in fewer litigation claims for all parties involved.

In the traditional Design-Bid-Build (DBB) method of construction procurement the design and contracting phases are sequential, with no direct collaboration process. Allowing alternative delivery methods for construction projects gives counties the ability to make the most cost-effective and advantageous decision for a particular project.

The DB method streamlines project delivery through a single contract between the owner and the design-build team. Thus, using the DB method for more complex projects facilitates the completion and delivery of public works construction projects efficiently and cost effectively. AB 400 would allow counties to continue using this authority until January 1, 2031.

It is for these reasons, CSAC is proud to sponsor AB 400 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916.591.2764 or mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Neuburger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, Author
The Honorable Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Jonathan Peterson, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg and Kayla Williams, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus



DESIGN-BUILD INSTITUTE OF AMERICA | Western Pacific Region

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G-419 | Yorba Linda, CA 92887 | T 714.912.9729 | F 714.912.8269



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 400 (Rubio) Local agency design-build projects: authorization
As Amended on May 1, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Design-Build Institute of America Western Pacific Region (DBIA), League of California Cities (CalCities), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to be in strong support of Assembly Bill (AB) 400 by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, which would allow local governments to continue the utilization of existing state law which allows them to use the Design-Build (DB) procurement process for qualifying public works projects. This bill achieves this by extending the existing January 1, 2025 sunset date to January 1, 2031 on the statutory DB authority.

Existing statute enacts more uniform provisions authorizing most local agencies, counties included, to use the DB procurement process for specified public works projects within Public Contract Codes Sections 22160-22169, which excludes roads but includes buildings, utility improvements associated with buildings, flood control, underground utility improvements, and bridges.

The DB method is an approach to delivering public works projects in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity. Under design-build, the owner contracts with a single entity to both design and construct a project at a fixed price. Simultaneously, contractors are provided with more flexibility over project design, materials and construction methods. This promotes project design and construction innovation, which can result in higher quality, as well as cost savings. The approach also reduces the county and local agencies' risk and results in fewer litigation claims for all parties involved.

In the traditional Design-Bid-Build (DBB) method of construction procurement the design and contracting phases are sequential, with no direct collaboration process. Allowing alternative delivery methods for construction projects gives local governments the ability to make the most cost-effective and advantageous decision for a particular project.

The DB method streamlines project delivery through a single contract between the owner and the design-build team. Thus, using the DB method for more complex projects facilitates the completion and delivery of public works construction projects efficiently and cost effectively. AB 400 would allow local governments to continue using this authority until January 1, 2031.

It is for these reasons that CSAC, DBIA, CalCities, CSDA, UCC and RCRC are proud to support AB 400 and respectfully request your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Neuburger (CSAC) at mneuburger@counties.org, Beau Biller (DBIA) at bcb@platinumadvisors.com, Damon Conklin (CalCities) at dconklin@calcities.org, Heidi Hannaman (CSDA) at heidih@csda.net, Jean Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com, or Sidd Nag (RCRC) at snag@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Neuburger
California State Association of Counties



Marianne O'Brien
Design Build Institute of America-Western
Pacific Region



Damon Conklin
League of California Cities



Heidi Hannaman
California Special Districts Association



Jean Hurst
Urban Counties of California



Sidd Nag
Rural County Representatives of California

CC: The Honorable Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, Author
The Honorable Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Jonathan Peterson, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg and Kayla Williams, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus



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CEO

Graham Knaus

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
1021 O Street, Room 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1673 (Pacheco) Outdoor Advertising Act: definitions.
As amended on April 18, 2023 – SUPPORT
Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation**

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of AB 1673 by Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco, which would clarify that relocation of billboard advertising sign displays will not be unduly restricted and that local governments realize revenue from advertising agreements.

Over the years, local cities and counties and billboard companies have worked together to establish mutually beneficial relocation agreements that, effectively, remove billboards from neighborhoods and main streets and relocate them to industrial and commercial areas alongside highways. In this process, local governments and sign companies have worked out revenue sharing arrangements that provide needed funding to cities and counties to support public programs and services.

In 2018, the Legislature passed AB 3168 (Rubio) to streamline the issuance of signs that were supported by relocation agreements. The legislation provided more flexibility to the state rules to make it easier to relocate a sign, provided that it complies with the Outdoor Advertising Act, and clarified that relocations can include the conversion of traditional displays to electronic displays. Many sign companies and local governments were able to take advantage of this streamlined process.

However, CalTrans has recently opined that it cannot issue permits for billboard relocations unless a local government is removing signs to make way for a public project or other planned development that, essentially, would require payment of just compensation through eminent domain proceedings. Local governments have always understood they could relocate billboards so long as there was a legitimate planning and zoning purpose for doing so, such as beautifying local neighborhoods. Limiting sign relocations to circumstances where a local government has a definite development project in mind for a property with an existing billboard will cost local governments

hundreds of millions of dollars in eminent domain costs, just compensation payments, and lost revenue. It also has been questioned whether a relocation can include the conversion in place of a traditional display to an electronic display. AB 1673 is needed to clarify that relocation agreements can be approved by local governments merely for the purposes of implementing planning and zoning laws, programs, and policies, as intended by AB 3168.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1673 and respectfully asks for your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Neuburger". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco, Author
The Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Transportation
Randy Chinn, Chief Consultant, Senate Committee on Transportation
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N St., Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 34 (Umberg) – Oppose Unless Amended [As Amended February 22, 2023]

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The statewide associations and individual local agencies listed above must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 34 (Umberg), unless it is amended to address our concerns discussed below.

SB 34 will amend the Surplus Land Act (SLA) to provide that if the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), pursuant to Government Code Section 54230.5, notifies the County of Orange, or any city located within Orange County, that its planned sale or lease of surplus land is in violation of the SLA, certain procedures for addressing the notice of violation must be followed.

As written, the bill may create a concerning precedent for all local agencies statewide. Because SB 34 includes a reference to notices of violation from HCD in connection with a “sale **or lease**” by a local agency, the bill may establish a statutory precedent that leases are subject to the SLA. Notwithstanding guidelines developed by HCD defining “disposition of surplus land,” at this time the term “dispose” is undefined in the SLA, and prior legislative efforts to define “dispose” to include leases were unsuccessful. Removing and excluding the bill’s reference to leases would in no way compromise or otherwise impact the ability of this legislation to address a planned sale of surplus land by the County of Orange or any city located within Orange County. However, including any reference to leases in the bill would be inconsistent with the clear, established legislative intent for the meaning of disposal of surplus land that is subject to the requirements of the SLA as currently written. We therefore oppose SB 34 unless it is amended to remove its reference to leases and HCD notices of violations in connection with planned leases.

Local agencies routinely enter leases for a variety of purposes that support their work or operations and that do not relate to the purposes of the SLA. Examples include a cell tower lease, a lease to a nonprofit for office space because that nonprofit is partnering with a local government to further a governmental purpose, and a short-term lease of park space.

The clear, established intent of the Legislature is not to apply the requirements of the SLA for surplus land to leases. In 2019, as introduced, AB 1486 (Ting) proposed to define “dispose of” as the “sale, **lease**, transfer, or other conveyance of any interest in real property owned by a local agency” (emphasis added).

2 | Senate Bill 34 (Umberg)

A broad local agency coalition opposed this proposed expansion of the meaning of “dispose of,” and consequently leases were amended out of the bill before it became law.

For the above reasons, we must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 34, unless it is amended to address our concerns.

Sincerely,



Aaron A. Avery
Senior Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



Paul A. Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District



Daniel R. Feron
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District



Dennis P. Cafferty
General Manager
El Toro Water District



Robert S. Grantham
General Manager
Rancho California Water District



Fernando Paludi
General Manager
Trabuco Canyon Water District



Rob Thompson
General Manager
Orange County Sanitation District



Marl Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Jean Hurst
Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Sarah Bridge
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts

3 | Senate Bill 34 (Umberg)

CC: The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government
Hank Brady, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
William Weber, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



CSDA

California Special
Districts Association

Districts Stronger Together



ACHD
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly Committee on Local Government
1020 N St., Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 229 (Umberg) – Oppose Unless Amended [As Amended February 23, 2023]

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The statewide associations and individual local agencies listed above must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 229, unless it is amended to address our concerns discussed below.

SB 229 will amend the Surplus Land Act (SLA) to provide that if a local agency is disposing of a parcel by sale or lease, and received a notice of violation from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), pursuant to Government Code Section 54230.5, that it is in violation of the SLA with regard to the parcel, the local agency shall hold an open and public session to review and consider the substance of the notice of violation. In addition to any other applicable notice requirements, the local agency shall provide notice disclosed on the local agency's internet website, in a conspicuous public place at the offices of the local agency, and to HCD no later than 14 days before the public session at which the notice of violation will be considered. The local agency's governing body shall not take final action to ratify or approve the proposed disposal until a public session is held.

The concerns underlying our position are as follows:

1. SB 229 is a companion bill to SB 34 (Umberg), which is also pending before this committee. SB 34 would similarly require procedures for the County of Orange and cities in the County of Orange to address notices of violation from HCD, albeit different procedures. However, SB 34 would seek to impose its requirements when a notice of violation is received from HCD by a local agency in connection with a "planned sale or lease of **surplus land**." In contrast, SB 229 would impose its requirements if a notice of violation is received from HCD when a local agency "is disposing of **a parcel** by sale or lease." This is a critical and problematic distinction because SB 229 may be improperly implied to broaden HCD's authority to issue notices of violation to **any** parcel of land. Without appropriately limiting the bill's application to notices of violation in connection with sales of **surplus land**, SB 229 may significantly disrupt local agencies' planning for uses of land, including for exempt surplus land explicitly not subject to the SLA. (See Government Code Section 54222.3 "This article shall not apply to the disposal of exempt surplus land as defined in Section 54221 by an agency of the state or any local agency.")

To correct this problem, SB 229 should be amended to make clear that it applies only to sales of surplus land, as follows:

2 | Senate Bill 229 (Umburg)

Government Code section 54230.7(a): “If a local agency is disposing of a ~~parcel~~ **surplus land** by sale ~~or lease~~ and has received a notification from the Department of Housing and Community Development....”

Government Code section 54230.7(b): “The local agency’s governing body shall not take final action to ratify or approve the proposed ~~disposal~~ **sale of surplus land** until a public session is held as required by this section.”

2. As written, the bill may create a concerning precedent for all local agencies statewide. Because SB 229 includes a reference to notices of violation from HCD in connection with a “sale **or lease**” by a local agency, the bill may establish a statutory precedent that leases are subject to the SLA. Notwithstanding guidelines developed by HCD defining “disposition of surplus land,” at this time the term “dispose” is undefined in the SLA, and prior legislative efforts to define “dispose” to include leases were unsuccessful. Removing and excluding the bill’s reference to leases would in no way compromise or otherwise impact the ability of this legislation to address a planned sale of surplus land. However, including any reference to leases in the bill would be inconsistent with the clear, established legislative intent for the meaning of disposal of surplus land that is subject to the requirements of the SLA as currently written. We therefore oppose SB 229 unless it is amended to remove its reference to leases and HCD notices of violations in connection with planned leases.

Local agencies routinely enter leases for a variety of purposes that support their work or operations and that do not relate to the purposes of the SLA. Examples include a cell tower lease, a lease to a nonprofit for office space because that nonprofit is partnering with a local government to further a governmental purpose, and a short-term lease of park space.

The clear, established intent of the Legislature is not to apply the requirements of the SLA for surplus land to leases. In 2019, as introduced, AB 1486 (Ting) proposed to define “dispose of” as the “sale, **lease**, transfer, or other conveyance of any interest in real property owned by a local agency” (emphasis added). A broad local agency coalition opposed this proposed expansion of the meaning of “dispose of,” and consequently leases were amended out of the bill before it became law.

3. Our organizations also seek amendments to the procedural requirements of SB 229, to provide reasonable flexibility to local agencies. While our organizations recognize the transparency concerns addressed by this bill, those concerns can be addressed while providing additional local agency flexibility. For example:
 - a. A public **meeting**, instead of a public session, to consider a notice of violation, provides transparency while providing flexibility to local agencies in their selection of a format consistent with the Brown Act.
 - b. Local agencies should be provided with an offramp from the requirement to hold a meeting if they elect not to proceed with a proposed disposal after receiving a notice of violation from HCD.
 - c. Not all local agencies maintain websites, and additional notice flexibility is needed.

The bill’s prescriptive requirements for holding a public session, and absence of an offramp when that public session is no longer required due to changed circumstances, will unnecessarily increase SLA compliance costs for local agencies.

For the above reasons, we must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 229, unless it is amended to address our concerns.

3 | Senate Bill 229 (Umberg)

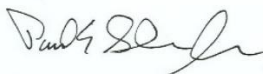
Sincerely,



Aaron A. Avery
Senior Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



Paul A. Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District



Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District



Dennis P. Cafferty
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Robert S. Grantham
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Fernando Paludi
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Marl Neuburger
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California State Association of Counties



Jean Hurst
Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Sarah Bridge
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts

CC: The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government

4 | Senate Bill 229 (U m b e r g)

Hank Brady, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
William Weber, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 551 (Portantino): Mental health boards
As Amended May 1 – SUPPORT IF AMENDED
Set for Hearing June 13, 2023**

Dear Chair Wood:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we respectfully hold a “Support if Amended” position on Senate Bill 551 (Portantino). This measure would impose additional requirements on the composition of community mental health boards, which are already subject to various membership requirements.

While counties greatly appreciate the removal of the provisions related to the diversion of specific MHSA funds, the May 1st amendments impose additional requirements on the composition of community mental health boards that are already subject to various membership requirements. Specifically, SB 551 would require 20 percent of a board’s membership to be reserved for individuals employed by a local educational agency and 20 percent for individuals 25 years of age or younger in counties with a population of 500,000 or more. While counties agree that local educational agencies and youth are important voices to be represented, counties are concerned about the prescriptive nature of the amendments. We acknowledge the composition requirements adjust for county population size; however, counties are still concerned the additional requirements will present potential challenges for community mental health boards to fill and maintain these memberships.

Counties join the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) in requesting the following amendments to the bill:

Amendment to 5604 (a)(2)(D): ~~*In counties with a population of 500,000 or more, at least 20 percent of the board shall be employed by a local educational agency, and at least 20 percent of the board shall be an individual who is 25 years of age or*~~

~~younger. In counties with a population of fewer than 500,000, but more than 100,000,~~ In counties with a population of 100,000 or more, at least one member of the board shall be employed by a local educational agency, and at least one member shall be an individual who is 25 years of age or younger. An education advocate may be substituted for either or both of these members.

For purposes of this section, "education advocate" means a parent of a student, representative of a youth mental health organization, or retired educator or administrator.

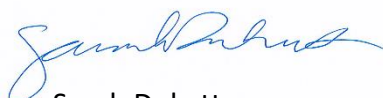
Amendment to 5604 (f)(2): No more than 49 percent of the members of a county's mental health board may own or operate an organization or business *or be employed by a local education agency* that financially benefits from a proposed or adopted Mental Health Services Act plan.

Counties are committed to the diversity of its mental health boards to ensure representation reflects the population, demographics, and needs specific to each jurisdiction. We believe the proposed amendments honor those important goals, while also building in the flexibility counties will need to populate and maintain those boards and guard against conflicts of interests. Should you have questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate at jonordera@counties.org, Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, UCC Legislative Advocate at kbl@hbeadvocacy.com and Sarah Dukett, RCRC Legislative Advocate at sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jonordera@counties.org
916-591-5308

cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Member, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



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CEO

Graham Knaus

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 564 (Laird) – Sheriffs and Marshals: fees As Amended March 20, 2023 – SUPPORT Assembly Third Reading File

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, is pleased to support SB 564 by Senator John Laird. This measure would increase the fees sheriffs may collect for serving civil process.

Current law provides that the sheriff shall serve all processes and notices, which includes summons, warrants, evictions, wage garnishments, small claims documents, levies on property, writs, and other court orders. Existing law also establishes the various fees that sheriffs' offices are permitted to collect in connection with performing the service of civil process. The problem is that many of the fees do not typically cover the costs of the services to which they are connected. Further, the fees have not been increased since 2015 and have not kept pace with inflation and the rising personnel and resource costs, creating revenue deficits within sheriffs' offices. Although sheriffs' offices are operated and managed directly under the supervision of the county-elected sheriff, they are funded through the county budget. Thus, any costs associated with serving, executing, and processing required court orders that are not covered by collected fees, are subsidized by counties.

Simply put, SB 564 would modestly increase and conform various fees that sheriffs' offices are permitted to collect to fulfill their legal obligation and closer match the costs of providing services. This bill also preserves the existing fee waiver process for individuals that cannot afford the fee, ensuring that everyone in need can apply for relief and access critical sheriff services.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports SB 564 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Morimune, Legislative Advocate at rmorimune@counties.org.

cc: The Honorable John Laird, California State Senate
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Consultant



June 12, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins
1021 O Street, Suite 7730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Rev.
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Steve Padilla
Chair, Senate Subcommittee #4
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing
1021 O Street, Suite 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee #4
1021 O Street, Suite 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing &
Community Development
1020 N Street, Room 126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Homelessness Funding & Accountability Trailer Bill Language

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Budget Chairs Skinner, Padilla, Ting, and Carrillo, and Housing Committee Chairs Wiener and Wicks:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Bring California Home Coalition (BCH),¹ we urge you to adopt trailer bill language (TBL) that includes common elements of accountability and homelessness funding proposals our coalitions have advanced. BCH supports in concept CSAC's AT HOME Plan and CSAC supports in concept Assembly Bill 799 (L. Rivas/Friedman/Quirk-Silva/Ward/Wilson). These proposals would promote systematic improvements to local homeless responses, foster collaboration across regions and between local governments and the state, and improve outcomes for Californians experiencing homelessness.

¹The Bring CA Home Coalition is a diverse group of homelessness advocates, people with lived experience of homelessness, local government staff, staff from homeless Continuums of Care and other nonprofit staff, affordable housing and service providers, business leaders, and other community organizations dedicated to reversing the cycle of homelessness in California.

Promote Principles to Improve Homeless Responses and Accountability

While we are collectively calling for the passage of ongoing funding, we appreciate the challenges in this year's budget. We further urge you to adopt the following provisions in California's budget TBL to improve our state's homeless response:

Require Comprehensive Regional Collaboration

The State should require big cities, counties, and homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs) to collaborate on comprehensive, multi-year regional homelessness plans. The plans should include how the region will be accountable to people experiencing homelessness by coordinating in deploying local, state, and federal funds to solve homelessness and define jurisdictional roles and responsibilities to meet a series of region-wide performance metrics. The plan development process should involve cities in the region, service and housing providers, individuals with lived experience, and local agency and department leaders. This comprehensive plan would replace the current HHAP Annual Local Action Plan.

Establish Strong Accountability Measures

The planning requirement and defined roles would hold local governments accountable for collaborating, reduce administrative burdens, and provide a means for the state to oversee and track local progress on achieving meaningful goals. For regions that are falling short, accountability measures should include technical assistance from the state and a corrective action plan with specific benchmarks for systems improvements.

The state accountability would be defined by committing sufficient funding for local governments to implement the regional plans. An ongoing annual state investment at a sufficient funding level would both sustain the current one-time commitment, and enable sustainable outcomes, while providing the state with a critical lever to require ongoing accountability of local entities. Requirements and obligations for local entities would be aligned to the level of funding available to produce results and would be delayed or temporarily suspended if state funding is reduced below a specific level.

Strengthen HHAP Funding and Make It Ongoing

Ongoing funding for the HHAP program is a critical element of making meaningful progress in the state's response to homelessness. A commitment of ongoing funding will allow local entities to effectively implement proposed regional plans and be able to plan for and sustain long-term investments in programs and services. It also allows states to work with local grantees and to take specific actions in future grant cycles to improve homeless responses when jurisdictions fail to perform. Expectations must be set linked to a multi-year planning process, clear outcome goals, and state investments. Multi-year progress on homelessness can only be achieved with

multi-year funding commitments and longer-range planning. In addition to a commitment of ongoing funding, we recommend several reforms to the current HHAP funding:

- Establish a three-year grant application cycle to reduce administrative burden, redundant planning, and provide consistent, predictable funding levels.
- Move away from the “all or nothing” approach to bonus funding and instead adopt a funding structure that awards bonus funds to regions that meet at least half of the number of performance goals the region sets in their plan, awarding proportionately greater funding by the number of goals the region is able to meet.
- Establish a minimum amount of funding for each applicant in order to ensure that every local government has sufficient funding to support programs and services needed to implement a regional plan.
- Sustained reductions in homelessness are best achieved when investment pairs interim interventions with permanent housing interventions that end homelessness; without investment in permanent housing interventions, too many exits from shelter are back to the streets. The State should use HHAP to achieve better balance in homelessness interventions and comprehensive homelessness systems at the regional level through utilization of HHAP funds to invest in permanent housing interventions, including rental subsidies, housing navigation, operating subsidies, capital expenses, services in housing and homelessness prevention in coordination with HHAP investments in interim interventions (such as non-congregate shelter beds).
- Add an eligible use category to HHAP focused on growing and retaining the homeless services workforce in order to build workforce capacity and support frontline workers in our homeless response systems.

Enhance Focus on Racial Equity and Lived Experience

As part of the planning and implementation process, we recommend building on the existing progress toward racial equity HHAP advanced. We recommend the following next steps:

- Require an inclusive process as part of the regional homelessness planning, ensuring people with lived experience of homelessness participate in the policymaking, planning, and implementation process. Action planning should also include cross-sector collaboration and planning with other public services systems, like jails/prisons, child welfare, and emergency health and mental health systems that play a key role in advancing racial equity.
- Remove barriers to hiring people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Ensure local governments are decreasing racial inequities through their goal setting and through outcome data collection and reporting.
- Ensure state funding is encouraging access to culturally-specific organizations that are well-equipped to serve the communities most impacted by homelessness.

Streamline Funding Applications

While local governments are taking steps to improve accountability mechanisms, we urge the State to promote simplified applications for local funding:

- The comprehensive regional planning process we propose could facilitate simplification of the HHAP application process, further reducing administrative burdens on local governments and the state.
- TBL should also include a requirement for Cal ICH to utilize the existing Cal ICH-convened workgroup to create a unified funding application. This funding application would allow local governments eligible for state-funded programs to apply through a single application process with an aligned timeline, reducing administrative burden for both local government applicants and state agency/department staff.

Create Greater Transparency in Use of HHAP Funds

The State has made strides in fostering more transparency in how local governments are using state funds through the Department of Housing and Community Development's Homekey Dashboard and the Cal ICH Landscape Survey. However, under HHAP currently, reporting on how local jurisdictions will use eligible funds does not give legislators, the Administration, or the public clear data on how local governments are using HHAP funds. We recommend reorganizing eligible uses for HHAP to ensure greater transparency in how local systems are spending HHAP dollars, while maintaining all existing allowable uses. Renaming the list of eligible uses under HHAP would make these uses consistent with terminology common to homeless response systems and clarify specific eligible uses as prevention, interim housing, permanent housing, services, and systems strengthening. Applications and reporting will specify how local governments use HHAP funds.

Ensure Accountability TBL Does Not Harm Californians Experiencing Homelessness

We urge you to **reject** any proposals that could impose additional burdens on Californians experiencing homelessness. As such, we recommend the following:

1. **Ensure that no geographic area is made entirely ineligible for state funding**, which will punish people experiencing homelessness in that jurisdiction.
2. **Do not significantly narrow eligible uses of HHAP** to fill gaps in other state programs, rather than promoting HHAP funding to meet critical gaps in local systems, including the need for evidence-based, long-term housing options to help people exit homelessness permanently.
3. **Do not expect regions or HHAP recipients to adopt unrealistic goals.** Local goals should be based on data on what is achievable with state funding, along with housing market and economic conditions. Expectations must be aligned to the level of investment.

4. **Do not base funding or funding amounts on housing element compliance**, as a compliant/non-compliant housing element, though an important component of a healthy housing market, does not, alone, connote an effective or ineffective homeless response.

People who administer state programs, people with lived experience of homelessness, staff who have provided services and housing, local elected leaders, and advocates who have advanced evidence-based practices have brainstormed, discussed, vetted, and coalesced around these proposals over the last seven months. They are core elements of CSAC's AT HOME plan and AB 799 (L. Rivas), legislation the Assembly recently passed unanimously. Based on the deep expertise and careful consideration represented in these proposals, we urge you to adopt these recommendations in accountability TBL.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to us to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Graham Knaus
California State Association of Counties



Mari Castaldi
Housing California & Co-Chair of Bring CA Home Coalition



Sharon Rapport
Corporation for Supportive Housing & Co-Chair of Bring CA Home Coalition



Alex Visotzky
National Alliance to End Homelessness & Co-Chair of Bring CA Home Coalition

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

Date: June 13, 2023

To: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

RE: Restoration of \$49.8 Million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs – SUPPORT

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our strong support and appreciation for the restoration of \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs in the Legislature's FY 2023-24 Budget. Our organizations additionally applaud the Legislature and Newsom Administration for maintaining its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health and nationwide, and public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for poor health outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

Our organizations deeply appreciate the Legislature's leadership in prioritizing public health and respectfully request your support of the restoration of the \$49.8 million investment in public health workforce training and development programs included in the Legislative Budget.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of California

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California

As signed by

Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California

As signed by

Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

As signed by

Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

As signed by

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

As signed by

Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 33 (Bains): Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force.
As Amended June 14, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set to be heard – June 27, 2023 – Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, is pleased to support AB 33 by Assembly Member Jasmeet Bains. This urgency measure would, subject to an appropriation, establish the Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force to undertake various duties relating to the assessment of the nature and extent of fentanyl abuse in California and the evaluation of approaches to increase public awareness of fentanyl abuse.

The opioid epidemic remains a public health and safety crisis in California. According to the California Department of Public Health, since 2015, the opioid epidemic has shifted to include more potent synthetic opioids of illicit supply, including fentanyl, which is one reason for the dramatic increase of drug-related overdose deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. And in California, fentanyl-related overdose deaths have been increasing at an unpredictable pace. By focusing on strategies to reduce the availability of fentanyl and increase public awareness, the Task Force will serve an important role through its policy recommendations on the implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce the devastating impact that fentanyl is having on our communities.

Counties appreciate the amendments accepted in Assembly Public Safety Committee to add a representative from a local health department, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association, and the County Health Executives Association of California. Adding these important local perspectives will enhance the development of recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent fentanyl abuse and death from the intentional use of fentanyl or the unintentional use of illicit substances containing fentanyl, protect and assist persons who misuse fentanyl or other illicit substances that may contain fentanyl, and develop policy recommendations on the implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce fentanyl overdoses. Ultimately, this crisis is a multifaceted problem that requires collaborative strategies and cross-disciplinary solutions at the state and local level.

For the reasons outlined above, CSAC is pleased to support AB 33 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jolie Onodera at jonodera@counties.org and Ryan Morimune at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jasmeet Bains, California State Assembly
Members and Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



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CEO

Graham Knaus

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 286 (Wood) Broadband infrastructure: mapping
As Amended April 11, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Bradford:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, is pleased to support Assembly Bill 286 by Assemblymember Wood. This bill would improve the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) statewide broadband map by increasing transparency, granularity, and accuracy for household broadband service data.


Current broadband maps express broadband access at the census-block level, despite the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) broadband maps expressing broadband access at the address level. These maps, which are created and maintained by the CPUC, gather feedback but do not incorporate that data into the publicly available maps. These publicly available broadband maps fail to fully illustrate the digital divide, preventing millions of Californians from receiving broadband. Maps today are painted with a broad brush of served versus unserved, with no detail regarding what might be keeping a household offline. Today's maps only reflect where Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have the capacity to serve an address, essentially serving as a one-dimensional map that provides no context as to why a household remains offline.

AB 286 will close a loophole that allows the CPUC to solicit feedback about problems with the existing map, but not to commit to upgrading the map with crowdsourced data correction. The FCC's new maps (which are far from perfect) rely on 200 sources of data. As acknowledged by the FCC, the providers alone cannot provide the necessary level of data granularity. Accepting and integrating alternate sources of data is crucial to achieving the goals of California's public broadband maps and digital equity plan.

CSAC strongly supports policies and programs that ensure all Californians have access to high quality, affordable internet services. Internet access must be treated as a right for all Californians and not just a luxury for some. For these reasons, we are pleased to support

AB 286 and respectfully urge your support. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at kdean@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kalyn M. Dean".

Kalyn M. Dean
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly, 2nd Assembly District
Members and Staff, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



June 15, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 551 (Bennett): Medi-Cal: Specialty Mental Health Services for Foster Children
As Amended April 27, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing June 21, 2023, in Senate Health Committee**

Dear Chair Eggman:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we are writing in support of Assembly Bill 551 (Bennett). AB 551, an urgency measure, proposes to delay the implementation of Assembly Member Bennett's AB 1051 (Chapter 402, Statutes of 2022) by one year from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2024, to ensure that counties and providers are prepared to implement the changes to presumptive transfer.

Last year the Legislature passed AB 1051, which clarified the responsibility associated with providing and paying for mental health services when a foster youth is temporarily placed in a short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) outside of their original county. Specifically, AB 1051 requires the county of origin to retain fiscal responsibility when placing a foster youth. The bill allows an exception if the foster youth is transferred permanently to the new county, or if the transfer of responsibility would result in better care. AB 1051 is set to take effect on July 1, 2023.

When foster youth need special care and attention to address complex needs, they may be placed into STRTPs. STRTPs provide specialty mental health services and are located in various regions of California. Specifically, they provide trauma-informed therapeutic interventions and integrated programming to aid in the child's transition into a home-based family setting. Foster youth can undergo placement changes for a variety of reasons, and in some instances, are placed in a STRTP outside of their original county. For example, San Francisco County contains no STRTPs and so youth must be placed out of county. When a new county assumes oversight of care, this is known as a presumptive transfer.

Since AB 1051 was signed, the joint power authority partner that works with county behavioral health agencies has announced updates underway to the fiscal portal used to transmit funding, which will take some months to accomplish. These critical updates will streamline payments between counties for services rendered through presumptive transfer. Additionally, many CalAIM reforms to Medi-Cal are also set to take effect on July 1, 2023.

Due to these upcoming administrative changes, AB 551 (Bennett) is essential to provide a one-year extension so that counties and providers can appropriately prepare and plan to implement AB 1051.

For the reasons outlined above, UCC, RCRC, and CSAC support AB 551 and urge your 'aye' vote. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
jonodera@counties.org
916-591-5308

cc: The Honorable Steve Bennett, Member, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee



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Graham Knaus

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Housing Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1033 (Ting) Accessory dwelling units: local ordinances: separate sale or conveyance.
As amended on May 26, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing – June 20, 2023 – Senate Housing Committee**

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of AB 1033 by Assemblymember Phil Ting, which would authorize a local agency to adopt a local ordinance to allow the separate conveyance of the primary dwelling unit and ADU or ADUs as condominiums.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan is designed to make true progress to effectively address homelessness at every level - state, local and federal. Through the AT-HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes needed to build a homelessness system that is effective and accountable including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. AB 1033 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar.

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals and countless others who are housing insecure up and down the state. This situation is due in part to the state's housing affordability crisis. Research shows that California needs millions of more homes than it currently has just to house the people already here. This shortage of homes has caused homelessness to skyrocket and homeownership opportunities to plummet.

Since 2017, ADUs have shown themselves to be an effective method for reversing this trend on overall production. Because of state reforms, they have increased from about 1,000 homes per year to about 20,000. They provide homes to people that are typically affordable to low-income people, because they are cheap to build, easy, and naturally smaller.

However, current law prohibits, with a narrow exception, an ADU from being sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence. AB 1033 would repeal the state's prohibition against selling ADUs. This would allow local governments to choose how and if to allow for-sale ADUs through a local ordinance. Local governments that want to allow smaller starter homes for sale will take this chance to use ADU law to create more affordable for-sale options in their communities.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1033 and respectfully asks for your AYE vote. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to reach me at mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Assemblymember Phil Ting, Author
Linda Rios, Legislative Aide, Office of Assemblymember Phil Ting
The Honorable Members, Senate Housing Committee
Mehgie Tabar, Principal Consultant, Senate Housing Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



June 9, 2023

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Labor, Public
Employment & Retirement
1021 O Street, Room 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1213 (Ortega) – Workers' Compensation: Aggregate Disability Payments
OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Cortese,

The organizations listed above must respectfully oppose AB 1213, which further complicates an already onerous claims-handling process and creates a disincentive for medical providers to comply with medical standards prescribed by the State of California. While we share the objective to reduce delays in the medical treatment authorization process, the bill as drafted, is aimed in the wrong direction. ***In the most recent data that is available from the state, only 7.2% of UR decisions that were challenged and sent to IMR were overturned. That means that disputed UR decisions are correct 92.8% of the time.*** The actual delay in the system related to care comes from the overuse of IMR by a small number of attorneys and physicians trying to push care that is conflicting with the state-established guidelines for determining medical necessity.

HOW MEDICAL TREATMENT DISPUTES GET RESOLVED

When a medical provider requests treatment for an injured worker, that treatment must be authorized by the claims administrator before it is provided. The vast majority of requested medical treatment is immediately approved, but some are reviewed to determine whether the request adheres to state medical treatment guidelines that have been established by the legislature and state regulators. This Utilization Review (UR) takes place in a tightly regulated environment, and the UR provider is subject to audit and penalty for failure to adhere to the myriad rules and regulations. If an injured worker disputes

the results of the UR process, then the worker, their attorney, or their physician can trigger the Independent Medical Review (IMR) process.

Below is a brief description of both the Utilization Review (UR) and Independent Medical Review (IMR) processes:

1. Utilization Review

In compliance with the California Labor Code, all employers or their claims administrators are required to have a UR program. When a claims administrator receives a medical treatment request (known as a Request for Authorization, or RFA) from a physician, they must confirm the request follows established medical treatment guidelines and they can either approve the treatment or refer it to UR for review. UR has five business days to approve, deny, or modify (meaning to change in some way; e.g. approve 6 weeks of physical therapy instead of 10) the RFA. That can be extended to 14 days if the treatment request wasn't supported by medical records and some additional information is needed from the requesting physician.

If the RFA is approved, then the process stops here. A claims administrator cannot challenge a UR approval. If the RFA is modified or denied, then the Independent Medical Review (IMR) process can be triggered by the injured worker, their attorney, or the physician.

In 2019, the California Institute on Workers Compensation published a report using the top law firms identified in UR data which showed that some attorneys submitted nearly all their client's treatment denials or modifications to IMR and others sent none.

If IMR is not requested, then the decision stands as final. Though the UR process is controlled entirely by the claims administrator or a contractor, it is tightly regulated and every claims administrator and UR provider is audited frequently to review their performance. Audit scores are public and compliance errors are met with steep financial penalties.

2. Independent Medical Review

If UR modifies or denies an RFA, then an injured worker has 30 days to request IMR. IMR is provided through a company called Maximus that has an exclusive contract with the State of California to provide those services. Maximus contracts with physicians to provide the independent reviews after an initial examination by the Division of Workers' Compensation to ensure that an IMR request is eligible.

The IMR provider applies the exact same medical standards that were used by the UR organization in the decision to modify or deny medical treatment. IMR serves as a "check and balance" on the decision of medical necessity that was made by the UR organization. Once IMR is triggered by a request, a claims administrator has 14 days to deliver records to the IMR provider. Once the IMR provider gets the records, they have 30 days to deliver a decision. The decision is final.

Prior to IMR medical disputes were resolved by obtaining a medical report that would then inform a decision made by a judge at the workers' compensation appeals board, and this process could take months or years depending on the specific circumstances. IMR was a

significant improvement for the system, leading to faster resolution of disputes, less delay for injured workers, and less cost for employers.

The UR portion of this process is quite fast – 5 to 14 days. The IMR portion, with the 30 days to request and 30 days to reach a decision, extends the process considerably. However, this is a vast improvement over the prior processes when medical treatment disputes were settled by a comprehensive medical evaluation and then litigated at the workers’ compensation appeals board. In many cases this process took 6-12 months to resolve disputes of medical treatment because of the time needed to schedule evaluations and court proceedings. The legislative history on this issue is clear. It is indisputable that the UR and IMR processes have streamlined the decision-making process and delivered treatment more quickly to injured workers.

STATE DATA SHOWS UR and IMR WORK

We understand why the legislature would be concerned about delays that erode an injured worker’s time-limited Temporary Disability (TD) benefits. Fortunately, there is clear data that demonstrates that UR is not a problem. The problem lies with attorneys and doctors who continue to needlessly challenge UR decisions at obscene volumes, despite losing these appeals at a rate of 90% for an entire decade. The UR process is fast, accurate, and accountable. The delay comes from the hundreds of thousands of IMR requests that are needlessly requested on an annual basis and cause a substantial delay for the injured worker.

Calendar Year	Total Number of IMR Requests	UR Decision Upheld	UR Decision Overturned
2021	264,196	92.8%	7.2%
2020	270,281	90.5%	9.5%
2019	319,505	89.6%	10.4%
2018	360,124	89.7%	10.3%
2017	343,451	91.7%	8.3%
2016	343,141	91.6%	8.4%
2015	308,785	88.8%	11.2%
2014	274,598	91.4%	8.6%
2013	7,805	84.3%	15.7%

Source: State of California Department of Industrial Relations & Division of Workers’ Compensation: 2022 Independent Medical Review (IMR) Report: Analysis of 2021 Data ([LINK](#))

The data contained in the chart above is unimpeachable and clear. IMR is overutilized and that is where the delay occurs for injured workers. If the legislature wants to meaningfully reduce delays, then they should focus on the overuse of IMR by attorneys and physicians. In 2021, which is the most recent year for which IMR data is available, there was a total of 264,196 requests for IMR. An incredible 245,173 out of the 264,196 reviews upheld the UR decision that had been challenged, and only 19,023 reviews overturned the IMR decision. If mitigating unreasonable delay is the issue, then the data clearly shows that ten times as many injured workers are experiencing delays because of an overuse of IMR. The Utilization Review process is not perfect, but it is consistently providing strong results for the system and the data shows clearly that UR is not the cause of delays.

Data continues to suggest that a small number of physicians are driving this high volume of IMR requests and therefore causing delays for injured workers. A 2021 Research Update from the California Workers’ Compensation Institute found that 1% of requesting physicians (89 doctors) account for 39.9% of

disputed treatment requests. Just ten individual providers account for 11% of the disputed treatment requests. The report also notes that the same providers continue to be a problem year over year.

Again, we understand why the legislature would want to act if there was a problem related to utilization review and causing delays for injured workers on temporary disability. That is not what the data shows. There is, however, a decade's worth of data clearly demonstrating substantial delays for injured workers resulting from the overuse of IMR caused by providers continuing to prescribe treatment that is outside of established medical evidence and attorneys who have a business model of overusing IMR.

RECORD-KEEPING NIGHTMARE

California's workers' compensation system is known for its complexity, and claims administrators are responsible for collecting, processing, and appropriately accounting for vast amounts of factual, medical, and other pieces of information in the execution of their duties. There are complex systems of accountability and oversight of claims administrators by state regulators, attorneys representing injured workers, and the workers' compensation appeals board.

The requirements of AB 1213 would represent a substantial new complication in the administration of claims. Claims administrators would be charged with retroactively determining which benefits paid to an injured worker belonged inside versus outside of the statutory cap, which will lead to disputes and litigation related to the pursuit of penalties.

Injured workers are having their benefits wasted with needless disputes, but the data shows clearly that it isn't UR decisions driving that delay. It is the continued flow of time consuming and expensive IMR disputes that uphold UR decisions at a consistently high rate. For these reasons and more, the undersigned organizations must oppose AB 1213.

Sincerely,

Acclamation Insurance Management Services
Allied Managed Care
American Property Casualty Insurance
Association
Association of California Healthcare Districts
Association of Claims Professionals
California Association for Health Services at
Home
California Association of Joint Powers
Authorities
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Coalition on Workers' Compensation

California Hotel & Lodging Association
California League of Food Producers
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Small and Disabled Veteran
Businesses
Flasher Barricade Association
Independent Lodging Industry Association
League of California Cities
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and
Management
Western Electrical Contractors Association

Cc: Senate Labor, Public Employment & Retirement Committee
Assemblymember Ortega



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Steve Glazer, Chair
Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1248 (Bryan): Local redistricting: independent commissions
As amended 6/13/23 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
Set for hearing 6/20/23 – Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Committee**

Dear Senator Glazer:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we write to share our opposition to Assembly Bill 1248, which would require counties with populations of 300,000 or above to create an independent redistricting commission for the 2030 redistricting process.

While we acknowledge the Legislature's interest in requiring broad adoption of independent redistricting commissions at the local level, AB 1248 does not provide the necessary resources for counties to execute a successful independent redistricting commission process. To that end, we continue to urge amendments to the bill that ensure counties are fully reimbursed for costs and incorporate more robust statutory and technical assistance supports to ensure that local agencies are able to effectively deliver on the promise of independent redistricting. Additionally, we suggest amendments that would limit the scope of the bill in 2031 to those cities and counties with populations of 500,000 and to incorporate an independent assessment of the 2031 redistricting process in these jurisdictions to better understand the outcomes and impacts faced by local agencies, their independent commissions, and stakeholders before expanding a mandate to convene an independent redistricting commission to additional jurisdictions.

In terms of numbers of affected agencies, AB 1248 applies to counties most broadly. According to the most recent Department of Finance population estimates, the bill would currently apply in 22 counties; removing those counties already subject statutorily to independent redistricting commissions (Fresno, Los Angeles, Kern, Riverside, and San Diego) and those with ordinances establishing their own independent commissions (Santa

Barbara), leaving 16 counties subject to the bill. These counties, and likely their city and school counterparts, will be expected to faithfully execute the Legislature's direction to create, fund, and administer these commissions while at the same time managing their own activities to ensure that the new commissions are in fact independent. We have concerns about the capacity for those counties between the 300,000 and 500,000 in population to effectively carry out the provisions of the measure. These counties are likely to be the ones requiring additional technical assistance and support as well as resources to execute the provisions of the measure successfully.

Further, requiring an independent study of the proposed redistricting commissions before expanding the requirements of the measure to additional jurisdictions allows for sharing of best practices, an assessment of necessary resources, and an understanding of common challenges in order to help facilitate successful implementation in smaller communities.

Balancing the need for appropriate and necessary involvement at the county level with the statutory directive to ensure the commission's independence is a complex and challenging endeavor and, to date, California law does not contain additional direction to counties or their corresponding commissions nor does the state provide any technical assistance to assist when issues arise. In general, the state should provide additional guidance to counties and the corresponding commissions in the statute in areas where there is a lack of clarity and provide some avenue for technical assistance; this work should be informed by the experiences in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Barbara Counties during the previous redistricting cycle, to ensure consistent practices on issues like contracting for staff, reasonable expectations for covering costs, managing litigation, maintaining a commission, and the like. Without such direction, counties and their commissions will be left to make decisions about managing the commission process on their own, informed only by the practices of their peers or their own best judgment. While counties are capable of addressing such uncertainties in the normal course of business, the "independent" nature of these commissions make it inherently difficult to have confidence as to where the line between independence and not exists.

We also reiterate the well-known fact that county elections and redistricting work are under-resourced, from a fiscal and human perspective and that there is a current lack of redistricting professionals available to provide competent assistance at a reasonable cost. The existing shortage of redistricting professionals will be exacerbated by the proposed AB 764, the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023, which will apply to hundreds of local government entities and require significant professional assistance to accomplish. There are simply not enough redistricting attorneys, map drawers, and consultants to go around and counties – and their independent redistricting commissions – will be ill-equipped to assess the expertise of such professionals without assistance. As mentioned, we are concerned with the capacity to implement this bill in the five rural counties included within the population threshold. The funding disparities, along with staffing and consultant shortages, are often magnified in smaller counties.

The promise of local independent redistricting commissions, as outlined in AB 1248, is to "ensure better outcomes for communities, in terms of fairness, transparency, public

engagement, and representation.” To successfully achieve this promise, counties need more than a directive to establish a commission. They – and their corresponding commissions – need real, concrete supports from the state, including statutory changes informed by the experiences of counties that have already been through the process, financial resources, and real-time technical assistance. Without this kind of support, we are concerned that counties will be set up for failure and such a failure would only serve to validate public distrust in the redistricting process and in our democratic systems that are already under intense public scrutiny.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns, as well as our suggested amendments, as we offer them in recognition of the Legislature’s interest in requiring local independent redistricting commissions. If these efforts are to be successful, the state must do more to ensure that counties have the resources they need to effectuate a process that the Legislature expects and that voters deserve. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if we can offer additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
kdean@counties.org

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Committee
The Honorable Isaac Bryan, California State Assembly
Cory Botts, Elections Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



June 14, 2023

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Graham Knaus

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1329 (Maienschein) - County Jail Incarcerated Persons: Identification Card Pilot Program
As Amended April 12, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing – June 27, 2023 – Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, is pleased to support AB 1329 by Assembly Member Brian Maienschein. This measure would authorize the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to implement a 5-year pilot program, similar to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the DMV's California Identification Card (CAL-ID) program, which ensures that any eligible incarcerated individual, as defined, may be provided a valid identification card (ID) or driver's license (DL) when they are released from a County of San Diego detention facility.

In 2014, CSAC took action to pursue options to establish a statewide protocol for issuing state ID cards for incarcerated individuals released from county facilities. CSAC also convened meetings with the DMV and San Diego County to develop the first ID pilot program, which led to the DMV and San Diego County establishing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the issuance of ID cards to incarcerated person in San Diego County jails. Since the inception of the program in 2015, the county has provided over 3,500 replacement ID cards for individuals in their custody. Simply put, AB 1329 builds upon these efforts and partnership with the state to improve efficiency by reducing the ID issuance time in half for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, while also providing DLs for eligible persons.

Counties recognize the increasing pressure and expanded responsibilities on criminal justice partners, but are also keenly aware of the need to prioritize programming, resources, and in particular, reentry services to reduce recidivism. To the extent that counties are successful in building strong reentry bridges, the public safety and societal benefits are clear – decreased victimization, increased public safety, and improved outcomes for justice involved populations and their families. A foundational need for individuals to successfully reintegrate is a valid state issued ID or DL, which has an impact on access to fundamental services such as housing, employment, health care, banking, and education. It is our hope that the development of this program through AB 1329 will encourage the state to work with additional counties so individuals across California can reap the shared benefits.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports AB 1329 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly
Members and Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



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CEO

Graham Knaus

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 16 (Smallwood-Cuevas) – SUPPORT
As Amended May 18, 2023**

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:


On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, I write in support of Senate Bill 16 (Smallwood-Cuevas), which would, commencing January 1, 2025, specify that local enforcement agencies may enforce prohibitions against discrimination in employment and housing.

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) prohibits discrimination in housing and employment on specified bases and provides procedures for enforcement by the Civil Rights Department. FEHA is the principal California statute prohibiting discrimination in employment. It prohibits employment discrimination based on race or color; religion; national origin or ancestry, physical disability; mental disability or medical condition; marital status; sex or sexual orientation; age; and pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Any form of discrimination robs people of their human dignity and in some circumstances, can also rob them of their health and financial stability. When discrimination continues unchecked, it also robs our communities of valuable opportunities to be better and stronger.

While the Department of Fair Employment and Housing is dedicated to enforcing the FEHA throughout the state, the pervasiveness of discrimination throughout the state makes it difficult for a single state agency to bear the sole responsibility for enforcement. While municipalities and other local agencies could assist in the Act's enforcement, there is no clear direction on whether local agencies actually have the authority to do so. SB 16 would specify that nothing in the FEHA restricts the ability of local agencies from enforcing the Act's provisions. This will expand the number of agencies actively addressing the problem of workplace and housing discrimination and will help ensure equity for all Californians.

For the aforementioned reasons, we support SB 16 and urge the Committee to move forward on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact me at kdean@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kalyn Dean".

Kalyn M. Dean
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, California Senate District 28
Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



June 12, 2023

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Graham Knaus

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 75 (Roth) – Courts: judgeships.
As Amended March 20, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing – June 20, 2023 – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Maienschein,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 75 by Senator Richard Roth, which upon appropriation, seeks to authorize 26 new superior court judgeships to county superior courts based on the Judicial Council's existing needs assessment, which examines court filings data, workload standards, and consideration for courts that have the greatest need relative to their current complement of judicial officers.

Many California counties face a critical shortage of Superior Court judges. While the judicial branch has received funding for 50 judgeships over recent years following the passage of Assembly Bill 159 (2007), the need for additional judicial resources persists. According to the Judicial Council's 2022 update of the Judicial Needs Assessment, 17 superior courts across the state currently require a total of 98 new judges. This shortage has a ripple effect within counties. It not only places extreme administrative burden on the entire criminal justice system – impacting judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and judicial staff who struggle to ensure that legal proceedings are held in a timely and effective manner – it also creates considerable hardship and harm to county residents who experience court delays and case dismissals. This is on top of the barriers that existed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which have posed significant challenges to court operations. Lastly, it is important to note that the current disparities between authorized and funded judgeships are most noticeable in counties with a growing population. For example, the 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment found that of the 98 judgeships, 22 are needed in Riverside County and 30 are needed in San Bernardino County. This means we could possibly see increasing disparities in counties such as Riverside, San Bernardino and others across the state should population trends continue.

Whereas CSAC is acutely aware of the projected state budget deficit and appreciates sound fiscal decision-making, it is critical that the state funds additional judgeships to meet the caseload demand in every county. The shortage of judges has detrimental and lasting impacts on the ability of counties to ensure that our judicial system serves all residents of California.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports SB 75 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate
Members and Consultant, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



June 14, 2023

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
Chair, Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 240 (Ochoa Bogh) - Surplus state real property: affordable and housing for formerly incarcerated individuals.

As Amended May 2, 2023 – SUPPORT

Set for Hearing – June 21, 2023 – Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee

Dear Assembly Member Petrie-Norris,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 240 by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh. This measure would add affordable housing projects intended for formerly incarcerated individuals as a priority in the disposal of state surplus land and provides that these projects are a use by-right.

Specifically, SB 240 will ensure the timely development of affordable housing on surplus property sold by the state by exempting the property from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews as "by-right" developments. Additionally, SB 240 would be a positive step aimed at preventing homelessness by ensuring that affordable housing is developed for criminal justice-involved individuals who need assistance transitioning back into our communities.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to effectively address homelessness at every level – state, local, and federal. Through the AT HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes necessary to build a comprehensive homelessness system that is effective and accountable, including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. SB 240 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar. Roughly 70% of California's unsheltered homeless population are criminal justice involved. Given this high percentage, it is imperative that the justice-involved population receives the necessary services and resources that are essential for successful reentry. Access to affordable housing is the most critical and fundamental need to prevent homelessness. SB 240 would further the efforts of CSAC and numerous stakeholders by increasing access to affordable housing options, which is a dire need across our state. Ultimately, additional housing support improves reentry outcomes and also plays a significant role in the prevention of crime and homelessness.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports SB 240 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at rmorimune@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate

Members and Consultant, Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee
Sarah Haynes, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



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CEO

Graham Knaus

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1021 O Street, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 450 (Atkins) – Housing development: approvals
As Amended March 16, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing – June 21, 2023 – Assembly Committee on Housing and
Community Development**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 450 by Senator Toni Atkins, which would make several changes to the ministerial approval of a housing development of no more than two units in a single-family zone, the subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use into two parcels, or both.

In 2021, the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act [SB 9 (Atkins) (Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021)] was signed into law, which streamlined a homeowner's ability to build a duplex or split their current residential lot, allowing for a maximum of four units on a single-family parcel. SB 450 would update the HOME Act by:

- Establishing timelines that either approve or deny an application for a new SB 9 unit or lot split within 60 days, and require homeowners to receive a reason and remedies if their application is denied. This would align SB 9 with accessory dwelling unit (ADU) law and make it easier for homeowners to navigate the application process.
- Ensuring that the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Law Unit has accountability and enforcement authority.
- Requiring consistency in local objective zoning, subdivision, and design standards to prevent overly burdensome requirements on units and lot splits created using SB 9.
- Making other technical language updates to SB 9, including deleting unnecessary and redundant language related to demolition of a property.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach,

Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to effectively address homelessness at every level – state, local, and federal. Through the AT HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes necessary to build a comprehensive homelessness system that is effective and accountable, including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. SB 450 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 450 and respectfully urges your support. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to reach me at mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Neuburger". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community
Development



June 16, 2023

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 525 (Durazo): Minimum Wage Health Care Workers
As Amended 5/25/23 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 525 by Senator Durazo.

Even with recent amendments to increase wages in consecutive years, SB 525 will still increase health care costs and county-wide wages and salaries, potentially resulting in provider closures and cutbacks – jeopardizing access to care for the most vulnerable.

SB 525 proposes to raise the health care minimum wage broadly across the health sector to \$21 per hour commencing on June 1, 2024, then raising to \$25 per hour after June 1, 2025, and increasing wages by 3.5% or by inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) every year thereafter, for employees working in county agencies – specifically, county health departments, county mental health departments, county correctional health settings, county hospitals, and county owned and operated clinics. Additionally, SB 525 requires exempt/salaried employees to be paid 1.5 times the proposed minimum wage – creating a new salary base of approximately \$78,000 per year. The measure also broadly applies the wage requirements to contractors within these facilities. Counties are estimating that the cost to implement the bill statewide across all 58 counties to be in excess of several hundreds of millions of dollars annually. When wage compression and compaction issues are factored in, the cost estimates increase exponentially. The cost estimates are discussed in more detail in the following pages.

The Immense Breadth of County Services and Impact of SB 525

County health departments are the public health experts monitoring and investigating diseases in the community, conducting testing and contact tracing, providing vaccination against disease, providing health education, inspecting restaurants, and addressing health disparities. County behavioral health departments provide mental health and substance use disorder services, primarily to California's low-income populations with serious mental illness and substance use disorders, through Medi-Cal and other programs. County health and mental health departments also prepare for and respond to natural

disasters. Twelve counties own and operate hospitals, which primarily serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries and the remaining uninsured. Those twelve counties and additional counties own and operate health clinics.

County employees are generally represented by local bargaining units and counties negotiate in good faith to set wages and benefits for employees. We work with our labor partners in a variety of settings and recognize the important work of our employees. **SB 525 would undermine the collective bargaining process by requiring counties to raise wages substantially, which will impact county operations beyond the health care field.** Counties provide a vast array of municipal services to residents beyond health and behavioral health, including roads, parks, law enforcement, emergency response services and libraries. Counties also deliver services on behalf of the state for programs such as foster care, CalWORKs, and elections. Setting an hourly wage floor for employees in the health care field will undoubtedly impact the wages of our employees and contracted services in all aspects of county government, making the mandate required by SB 525 cost counties significantly more.

1991 and 2011 Realignment Considerations

County health functions are funded by 1991 Realignment (a combination of state sales tax and vehicle license fees), as well as other state and federal funds; county mental health services are funded by a combination of 1991 and 2011 Realignment, Mental Health Services Act, as well as other state and federal funds. In years where the Realignment revenues grow slowly or decline – as they have done several years since 1991, including during the Great Recession – counties would not have funds to cover this health care minimum wage increase. In addition, counties primarily serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries and reimbursement rates have remained stagnant. The current rate structure cannot absorb the costs proposed in this bill.

Counties have a unique role in providing health care services to low-income Californians. Welfare and Institutions Code section 17000 obligates counties to serve as the provider of “last resort” for indigent Californians who have no other means of support. Because of that requirement, counties focus on serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries and uninsured Californians in their hospitals, health systems, and clinics. Counties are not in the health care business to make a profit, instead they are focused on serving individuals with the fewest means – and the payer mix of patients they care for reflects that. Counties are important state partners in the Medi-Cal program. To the extent that SB 525 will increase costs without accompanying resources, counties may scale back the services they provide, thus impacting Medi-Cal recipients, low income, and uninsured Californians.

SB 525 Fiscal Estimate

A sampling of several counties consisting of approximately 46.2 percent of California’s total population estimates a fiscal impact of approximately \$241.2 million, annually, if the minimum wage for covered health care employment and work performed on the premises of a covered health care setting is increased to \$25/hour. This aggregate estimate of the counties sampled estimates that over 15,000 employees would be impacted. It is important to note that the \$241.2 million annual estimate does not factor in other costs for employment, such as pension costs and other overhead. In addition, this estimate does not factor in other significant downstream cost pressures, such as salary compression and compaction and other impacts that reverberate beyond. When wage compression/compaction issues are factored in, the estimated impact is much higher. Extrapolated to all counties throughout the state, the \$241.20 estimated annual figure would increase exponentially and would still not include the additional cost pressures previously referenced.

Compression and Compaction Issues

If the minimum wage for covered health care employment and work performed on the premises of a covered health care setting is raised to \$21/hour and subsequently to \$25/hour, there would be compression and compaction issues, causing a major impact to counties who would have to also increase the wages for workers in other sectors and for supervisory employees. This creates significant downstream pressures on county budgets.

First, many counties have signed local labor agreements that will require them to increase wages for other workers outside of the healthcare system because of equal pay extensions. For example, if a custodian who works in a county hospital gets their wages raised to \$21/hour, then the county will also need to raise the wages of all custodians who are employed by the county to \$21/hour. Failing to do so would put the county in breach of previously agreed to labor contracts.

Second, if a supervisor is making wages at or near \$21/hour or \$25/hour minimum prior to SB 525 going into effect, there will be additional wage pressures because direct reports or non-supervisory staff wages will be outpacing salary increases for supervisory employees. If the wage difference between supervisor and non-supervisors are too small (or even at matching wages), it may reduce the incentive for employees to accept the additional responsibilities of being a supervisor/manager and can affect recruitment and retention. Addressing the wage differential will dramatically increase costs across all bargaining units.

Finally, if the minimum wage across the healthcare sector is increased to \$21/hour and then to \$25/hour, it may eliminate differences in factors such as skills, performance, seniority, or tenure between different employees with similar job classifications. For example, the wage increase could result in a new or recent hire making as much as someone that has held the same or similarly classified position for several years – whose wages have increased over time as a result of performance and merit increases, cost of living adjustments, etc., and it would disincentivize retention. To effectively retain an experienced workforce and ensure that the workforce needs of counties are being met to fill positions to support county-administered services, there would need to be consideration to increasing the wages of longstanding employees as well, given that new employees would be making the same wage as a more seasoned employee.

To address the wage compression and compaction issues, counties will likely need a compensation study to evaluate appropriate grade increases across the organization and reopen collective bargaining agreements creating new unfunded administration processes to implement SB 525. Wage increases across a bargaining unit as a result of SB 525 would far exceed the increases for just the health care worker wage minimum proposed in this measure.

SB 525 Would Create Continued Cost Pressures on County Budgets

Given that SB 525 includes an inflator of the lesser of 3.5 percent or inflation, it is unlikely that existing revenue sources available to counties will grow sufficiently to cover the wage requirements in SB 525. Additionally, SB 525 would require implementation to begin next year raising wages by \$5.50/hour from the current minimum wage of \$15.50/hour, and then increasing by \$9.50/hour on June 1, 2025. We estimate the costs to implement SB 525 for counties alone will be in the range of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. With the uncertain state of the economy and anticipated state budget deficit, SB 525 will dramatically and significantly affect county budgets at precisely the time when they are least able to afford it.

Simply put, SB 525 is not sustainable for county government and undermines the local collective bargaining process. Counties will not be able to absorb the additional wage requirements in SB 525 without curtailing services to California's most vulnerable residents or laying off staff in non-health care sectors. The overall impact will be less services provided by county government to the public – and potentially fewer public sector employees to provide that work.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC respectfully oppose SB 525.

Sincerely,



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
kdean@counties.org
CSAC



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
UCC



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
RCRC

Cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Member, California State Senate District 26
Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
Lauren Prichard, Assembly Republican Caucus, Labor and Employment Policy Consultant



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Corey Jackson, DSW, MSW
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6120
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 408 (Ashby): Child Welfare Services for Foster Youth with Complex Needs
As Amended May 18, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of SB 408 to establish programs and services to support foster youth and youth at risk of foster care with significant trauma and complex needs. This investment is needed to ensure no youth are left behind in California's continuing effort to implement Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

Counties have embraced the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), implemented through AB 403 (Stone, Ch. 773, Statutes of 2015), to reduce the use of congregate care and improve permanency and other outcomes for foster youth. CCR has resulted in profound shifts in child welfare practice and has helped to improve outcomes for many – but not all – children, youth, and families. Improvements in practices include the use of child and family teaming to ensure youth and family voice in case management and placement decisions, statewide use of the Resource Family Approval process to align and streamline licensing and approval for families, increases in foster care rates, and use of a universal child strengths and needs assessment tool. CCR resulted in significant reductions in the use of congregate care and a greater focus on supporting children and youth in family-based settings.

However, CCR was not designed to serve some of our foster youth who have experienced severe trauma and/or have complex physical, behavioral, and other needs. County child welfare agency collaborates diligently with their system partners – mental health plans, care providers, regional centers, educational agencies, etc., – to care for youth with severe trauma and/or complex care needs, but challenges remain. Higher-level treatment services are not always available at the moment they are needed, and providers are not always able to offer the intensive care needed by some youth. As a result, these youth often experience multiple placement disruptions and hospitalizations, and sometimes stay in unlicensed settings, while social workers seek other appropriate services and treatment settings. Unfortunately, this further exacerbates a youth's trauma and is likely to lead to poor outcomes.

SB 408 would establish up to ten regional health teams across the state to improve assessments and timely access to needed services (physical, mental health, substance use, etc.), perform comprehensive case management in coordination with other child-serving systems, and ensure appropriate follow-up to prevent placement disruptions with families and care coordination for youth stepping down from

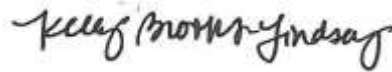
hospitals or other settings. This approach is critical to preserving families, preventing disruptions in family-based foster care, and identifying and supporting families as early as possible to reduce trauma.

SB 408 will help county child welfare agencies preserve families and improve services to our youth with significant trauma and/or complex needs. For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC support SB 408 and urge your 'AYE' vote. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
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916-698-5751



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
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Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
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916-447-4806

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby, Member, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: County Voice Needed in Prison Closure Deliberative Process

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties; the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), a 40-member county association that champions policies on behalf of rural counties; and the Urban Counties of California (UCC), a 14-member coalition representing our state's most populous counties, we write to encourage your Administration to invite and consider the county perspective as well as input much earlier in the state's analysis of and decision making for state prison closures. We believe that county participation in the front-end deliberative process will help identify impacts as well as needed mitigations.

The decline in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) adult institution population witnessed in recent years necessitates consideration of right-sizing the state prison footprint. As part of this process, the Deuel Vocational Institution in San Joaquin County closed in September 2021; closure activities associated with decommissioning the California Correctional Center in Lassen County began in November 2022; and, in December 2022, the full closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison and partial deactivations at six institutions were announced. Each of these decisions had or will have considerable impact on the communities where these facilities are located, including: the direct loss of jobs at the institutions; the likely exodus of former workers and their families; and the resulting impacts on local businesses, the communities' tax base, and local school districts.

When the state embarked on its prison construction boom in the 1980s and 1990s, many facilities were sited in rural or remote regions of the state. In exchange for "hosting prisons," communities embraced the associated economic and growth opportunities along with the promise of stable, middle-class jobs with considerable earning power. Although

CSAC, RCRC, UCC Letter on Prison Closures
June 7, 2023 | Page 2

our state prison system is not expressly designed to be an economic driver for local communities – instead serving the fundamental rehabilitative and public safety purposes – the fact of the matter is these investments have been transformative, allowing prison host counties and cities to support schools, hospitals, and local business that are now heavily if not entirely reliant on the full and continued operation of the local prison.

It also is important to acknowledge that the considerable decline in the state prison population – certainly hastened by the Three Judge Panel and the state’s need to come into compliance with the court-ordered population cap – was achieved in large part through solutions executed at the county level. Local criminal justice system partners across the state, primarily county sheriffs and probation, have assumed responsibility for tens of thousands of individuals over the last 15 or so years who, absent significant criminal justice reforms, would have remained in the state’s custody or on state supervision. Examples of major policy changes – whether legislatively enacted, voter approved, or court-ordered – that shifted responsibility for particular populations to county responsibility or otherwise reduced the state’s own caseload or custody population include:

- Community Corrections Performance Incentive Grant (SB 678, 2009),
- Public Safety Realignment (AB 109, 2011),
- Three Strikes Reform (Proposition 36, 2012);
- Federal court-ordered prison population reduction (February 2014);
- Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act (Proposition 47, 2014);
- Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act (Proposition 57, 2016); and
- Numerous credit-earning accelerations during the COVID-19 pandemic (beginning in 2020).

Simply put, the state would not be in a position to contemplate prison closures today were it not for the counties’ work over the last 15 years to accommodate and implement multiple, extensive, and often contemporaneous criminal justice reforms. We would be remiss if we did not mention our appreciation and acknowledgement of the resources and protections that have accompanied these reforms – especially with respect to 2011 Realignment.

Given that the criminal justice continuum is an interlocking system with roles and responsibilities defined for state and local levels of government, counties, therefore, respectfully request that we be invited into conversations about potential prison closures earlier in the decision-making process so that the impacted jurisdiction(s) can offer input into likely local impacts; help develop plans for communicating with affected communities; and offer locally informed insight into possible mitigations, ideas for best and highest reuse of the facilities, and preferred economic resilience plans. Without a well-thought-out plan

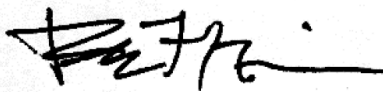
CSAC, RCRC, UCC Letter on Prison Closures
June 7, 2023 | Page 3

for repurposing, counties also are concerned that if facilities are simply vacated, we will be left to face an array of public safety challenges.

CSAC, RCRC, and UCC greatly appreciate your recognition of community impacts associated with prison facility closures. As partners with the state along the public safety continuum, counties would greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage at the front-end of these vital and life-changing conversations so that we can develop joint and mutually beneficial plans for the optimal reuse and redevelopment opportunities in the affected communities.

Thank you for considering the county perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Senior Vice President,
Governmental Affairs
RCRC



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Advocate
UCC

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 5
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5
The Honorable Aisha Wahab, Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Jr., Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Steve Padilla, Member of the Senate
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin
Newsom



May 16, 2023

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: May Revision Proposal for CARE Act Funding – CONCERNS

Dear Director Stephenshaw, Chair Skinner, and Chair Ting:

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) write to express our appreciation for the updated level of funding proposed in the May Revision for counties to implement the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. We acknowledge the revised proposal reflects progress made during discussions with our county associations to refine the ongoing impacts of the CARE Act, but we request additional consideration of the following issues outlined below.

Based on county fiscal estimates, the level of ongoing funding for counties proposed in the May Revision by the Administration (\$151.5 million) is inadequate to ensure the successful implementation of the new court process associated with the CARE Act. While the overall impact to counties will depend on factors yet to be determined such as the annual number of CARE Act petitions submitted and the number of qualifying respondents, drawing upon the state's caseload estimates, counties estimate CARE Act process costs upon full implementation will total \$398.4 million annually.

Further, the May Revision proposal lacks clarity about how counties will receive funds. Without an agreed-upon funding mechanism, Cohort 1 counties cannot adequately plan for implementation. The CARE Act process is statutorily required to begin by October 1 of this year for seven counties (Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne), and Los Angeles County is anticipated to begin by December 1 of this year. For Cohort 1 to be ready to implement in less than five months, counties need an allocation methodology that expeditiously distributes funding.

The implementing legislation, SB 1338 (Umberg/Eggman), conditions operation of the CARE Act upon the development of an **allocation**, in consultation with county stakeholders, to provide state financial assistance to counties to implement the “CARE process.” Statute further defines the CARE process as “the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act.” The Governor’s Budget proposal included an estimate of funding for county behavioral health agency costs to administer the CARE Act, but the Administration acknowledged in budget documents that the amount was a placeholder and that, “The Administration will continue to work with counties and stakeholders to refine the ongoing program cost estimate.”

The Legislature and county stakeholders have been clear that adequate funding to counties would be required to develop and implement this new process, as counties play a key and substantial role in implementation as the state’s partners in providing critical behavioral health assessments and care, social services, and housing resources. The CARE Act imposes new mandated activities on counties, which include new CARE process workload for county behavioral health agencies, county counsel, and public defenders.

Our county organizations have met with the Administration several times to discuss and provided detailed fiscal estimates outlining the fiscal impacts to affected county agencies. Counties appreciate the adjustments reflected in the May Revision to further support state and county agency costs for planning and implementation, however, counties express the following outstanding concerns with the May Revision fiscal estimate for CARE Act costs:

- **Behavioral health agency costs underestimated:** The May Revision includes \$151.5 million in ongoing support for behavioral health agency costs. In contrast, counties estimate ongoing annual costs to behavioral health agencies *based on the state’s own projected caseload*¹ at \$251 million upon full implementation. However, counties anticipate the number of petitioners and respondents will be greater, especially during the initial years of program implementation, necessitating additional resources.

The county estimate utilizes an evidence-based average hourly rate of \$117, which accounts for various provider types and associated benefits, as well as overhead/administration impacts. Behavioral health agency staff will perform numerous activities throughout the CARE process, and the county estimate includes resource considerations for court appearances, preparation and coordination, noticing, care plan development, case management, housing services/ supports, and outreach/engagement by county behavioral health. Adequate funding for county behavioral health departments is essential to the success of the CARE Act. With additional adjustments to caseload, hourly rates, continued hearings and other adjustments, counties’ own estimates would require \$520 million ongoing at full implementation. The Judicial Council’s recently adopted CARE Act Rules, which require notice of *every single hearing* to be personally served on the respondent (a cost that was not anticipated in with the May Revision or the counties’ estimates) will increase counties’ CARE process costs even further.

- **Funding for counties’ legal representatives must be included:** Troublingly, the May Revision does not include any funding for one critical component of the CARE process: the county’s legal representative (i.e., County Counsel, or the City Attorney’s Office in San Francisco). CARE Court

¹ 14,000 petitions, with 12,000 respondents proceeding to an initial hearing.

is a judicial process, with numerous required filings and multiple evidentiary hearings, in which the county behavioral health agency is a mandatory participant. Moreover, the county has specific legal duties throughout the CARE process – and the central product of this process, the CARE plan, is a legal document that must meet statutory standards, and be approved by a judge.

County counsel will represent county behavioral health at initial appearance and merits hearings, as well as provide pre-court preparation and legal support to behavioral health agencies for the engagement of respondents, supporters, counsel, and other stakeholders to attempt to engage respondents into CARE agreements between eligibility and case management hearings. County counsel will also review CARE plans as well as draft court filings related to clinical evaluations and capacity issues. The CARE process is a court process where representation of all parties is a necessity, and the expectation of any judge. These functions simply cannot be accomplished without the participation of the county's counsel. There is no mechanism for non-attorney employees to represent the county in court – and even were that possible, no responsible public agency would attempt it, and no judge would tolerate it. The CARE Act Rules recently adopted by the Judicial Council repeatedly acknowledge the role of the county behavioral health agency's counsel, and the budget must do likewise. Simply put, as specified in SB 1338, "the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act" requires attorneys, and funding for those services is needed for CARE Court to work. (The state's obligation and practice of funding the county's counsel in similar state-mandated legal proceedings is well-established, including child welfare cases, sexually violent predator proceedings, and Individual Education Plan hearings for students with disabilities.)

The May Revision does not include funding support for county counsel activities; however, given the significant and consistent participation of county counsel in the new CARE process, dedicated and ongoing funding support for these activities must be included within county CARE Court funding for this new court process to be implemented. The estimated annual costs to support county counsel activities statewide are \$87 million, based on the Administration's caseload assumptions.

- **Mechanism/timing for public defender support costs unclear:** Although the CARE Act specifies the appointment of, and state funding for, qualified legal services projects to represent respondents in CARE Act proceedings, the provision of legal services projects is contingent on whether a legal services project "has agreed to accept these appointments." To counties' knowledge, no qualified legal services projects have yet indicated such agreement *anywhere in the state*, nor does there appear to be a process in place for this to occur in Cohort 1 counties prior to October. To the extent the capacity, availability, or willingness of legal services projects are insufficient to serve this population, this representation will be handled by public defenders. The May Revision provides funding to the Judicial Council for qualified legal services projects and public defenders through the Legal Services Trust Fund of the State Bar, however it is unclear how the funding mechanism/process will work should these services be largely provided by public defenders. For representation to be available on October 1, 2023, a funding mechanism to reimburse public defenders for cost must be in place. Moreover, the amount of funding must be sufficient for the legal services actually required, regardless of who provides them.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns outlined above. We look forward to continued engagement with you to discuss funding and implementation updates that will maximize success for the CARE Act, and most importantly, best support the people it intends to serve. Should you have any questions regarding our concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer
CSAC
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Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
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Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs
RCRC
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Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA
mcabrera@cbhda.org

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Budget
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Staff Director, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant, Office of Speaker Rendon
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Atkins
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of pro Tempore Atkins
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health, CalHHS
Ann Paterson, Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Newsom
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom



May 31, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: RETAIN FUNDING FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Governor Newsom:

Under your leadership and with your support, the state, since 2021-22, has dedicated \$50 million per year in funding to the Public Defense Pilot Program to support resentencing workloads in public defense offices following recently enacted changes to the law. This moderate, short-term investment has already yielded at least \$46 million - \$325.8 million in cost-savings, with potential for significant additional savings.¹

While we recognize that challenging decisions must be made in the wake of a serious budget deficit, we respectfully urge your Administration to retain the third and final year of funding to the Public Defense Pilot Program.

The significant return on your Administration's investment in the Public Defense Pilot Program will continue in the final year if funding is maintained. Year one data from 10 of the 34 grant-funded public defense programs has already yielded approximately \$46 million - \$325.8 million in cost savings based on data from only two of the four areas covered by the pilot program.²

¹ Estimated incarceration costs saved range from \$46 million to \$325.8 million based on the LAO's estimated marginal cost savings of \$15,000 per released person per year and \$106,131 in average incarceration costs per year.

² Actual savings are probably higher since this data only covers individuals resentenced under Penal Code section 1172.6 (felony murder) and 1170.03. It does not cover Youthful Offender Parole or Penal Code section 1473.7 petitions (challenging invalid convictions based on immigration consequences).

These 10 programs received \$28.5 of the \$45.6 million distributed in year one of the grant and helped 198 people obtain release or reduced sentence, saving a total of 3,070 years of incarceration time.³ Without this continued funding, we fear the promises of these reforms – both in terms of the human impact and financial savings – will not be fully realized.

While states are responsible for funding the constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases, California has delegated the majority of that responsibility to the counties, who, as you know, are also struggling in this economy to maintain core government functions. Notably, the Public Defense Pilot Program is currently the only statewide funding specifically allocated to the counties for the provision of indigent defense; all other funding for indigent defense comes from the counties, or, to a small degree, outside grants. The final \$50 million installment for the Public Defense Pilot Program is a modest amount to ensure that the reforms prioritized and passed by the Legislature can continue to be meaningfully implemented as your Administration intended.

In addition to valuable savings, this funding has resulted in critical public safety improvements at the local level. Investing in robust public defense programs helps keep our communities safe and healthy. The Public Defense Pilot Program funds have permitted indigent defense providers to hire social workers and expand their holistic defense teams, creating a continuum of care for indigent clients with psychiatric and substance use disorders, reducing the risk that these individuals will become homeless. The funds have allowed indigent defense teams to facilitate safe and successful reentry plans for individuals returning to the community after incarceration. And the funding has also allowed indigent defense providers to reinvest in families, communities of color, immigrants, and people earning low incomes who have been impacted by the state's racially biased and discriminatory sentencing laws of the past. The funding also saved many California residents from deportation due to invalid convictions. This is particularly significant in a state with 11 million foreign born residents where losing a breadwinner due to deportation often leads to impoverishment for the remainder of the family and significant state medical and assistance costs. Without the third year of funding, these public safety gains will largely cease, as indigent defense providers will not have the resources to provide these critical services.

The state has already seen a significant return on its investment. We respectfully urge your Administration to retain the third year of funding to a program that has a demonstrated record of success.

Additionally, this data does not include the savings from the Los Angeles County Bar Association Independent Defender Program.

³ According to data received from 10 of the 34 public defense programs spanning March 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023. The years-saved calculation is based on the first eligible parole date and does not account for milestone or other credits. Only approximately 44% of people eligible are paroled at the first parole hearing. The 10 public defender grantees reflected in this data are from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Yolo.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Nick Brokaw at 916.448.1222 or nbrokaw@sacramentoadvocates.com or Mica Doctoroff at (916) 824-3264 or mdoctoroff@aclunc.org if we can provide additional information or you have any questions.

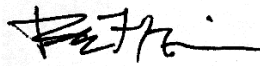
Sincerely,



Arlene Speiser
President, California Public Defenders Assoc.



Anne Irwin, Executive Director & Founder
Smart Justice California



Ryan Morimune, Legislative Advocate
California Association of Counties



Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director
NextGen California



Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Elizabeth Espinosa, Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Rebecca Gonzales, Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs
National Association of Social Workers – CA Chapter



Kathy Brady, Director
Immigrant Legal Resource Center



Carmen-Nicole Cox, Director of Government Affairs
ACLU California Action



Mano Raju
SF Public Defender



Julie Traun, Director, Court Appointment Program
The Bar Association of San Francisco



Garrett Miller, President
Los Angeles County Public Defenders Union

cc:

Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom
Ann Patterson, Cabinet Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom
Dana Williamson, Chief of Staff, Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Nancy Skinner and Staff
Senator María Elena Durazo and Staff
Assemblymember Phil Ting and Staff
Assemblymember Mia Bonta and Staff

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

Date: May 15, 2023

To: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on HHS

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on HHS

RE: May Revision Restoration of \$49.8 million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our support for the Governor's May Revision proposal rescinding his January proposal to cut \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs. Our organizations additionally applaud the Newsom Administration for maintaining its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health and nationwide, and public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for poor health outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

Our organizations appreciate the Legislature's leadership in prioritizing public health and

respectfully request the adoption of Governor Newsom's May Revision rescinding the proposed cuts to public health workforce training and development programs.

Respectfully,



Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of California



Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California



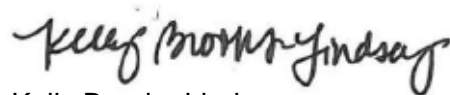
Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review

Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus

Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus

Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health

Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: May Revision Restoration of \$49.8 million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our support and gratitude for your May Revision proposal to rescind the Administration's January proposal to cut \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs. Our organizations additionally applaud your Administration's maintenance of its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health and nationwide, and public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for community spread and outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

It is for these reasons that our organizations express our support and gratitude for rescinding the January proposal to reduce funding for public health workforce training and development programs.

Respectfully,



Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California



Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California



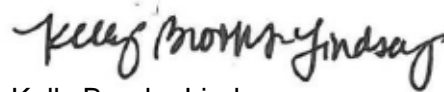
Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, California Senate
Honorable Members, California Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Policy Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



May 16, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Request Appropriation for Insufficient ERAF Amounts in Alpine, Mono, and San Mateo Counties and Their Respective Cities**

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we write to respectfully urge your consideration for including an appropriation to backfill the insufficient ERAF amounts in the Counties of Alpine, Mono, and San Mateo, and the cities therein. The Governor’s proposed 2023-24 state budget is the first to fail to include a backfill of these revenues since the passage of Proposition 1A in 2004; the lack of backfill will significantly impact local programs and services.

Alpine County 2021-22 Amount:	\$155,920
Alpine County Previously Appropriated Amount:	\$319,771
Mono County 2021-22 Amount:	\$2,997,801
San Mateo County 2021-22 Amount:	\$32,898,051
<hr/> Total:	<hr/> \$36,371,543

In 2004, a state budget compromise between the state and its counties and cities was struck to permanently reduce taxpayer’s Vehicle License Fee (VLF) obligations by 67.5 percent. The VLF had served as an important general purpose funding source for county and city programs and services since its inception. In exchange for this revenue reduction, the state provided counties and cities with an annual in-lieu VLF amount (adjusted annually to grow with assessed valuation) to compensate for the permanent loss of VLF revenues with revenues from each county’s Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF); this transaction became known colloquially as the “VLF Swap.” The 2004 budget agreement made clear that excess ERAF funds – shifted property tax revenues that were not needed to fully fund K-14 schools – would not be used to fund the in-lieu VLF amount. Further, the Legislature and Administration agreed to a ballot measure – Proposition 1A – that amended the Constitution to ensure that future shifts or transfers of local agency

property tax revenues could not be used to pay for state obligations. That November, Proposition 1A was approved by 83.7 percent of voters.

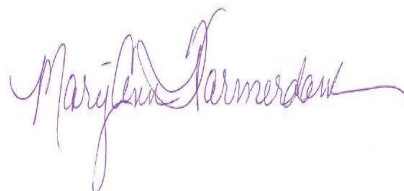
Legislation to implement the VLF swap carefully and purposefully identified the sources of funds that were available to pay the state's in-lieu VLF obligation: ERAF distributions to non-basic aid schools and property tax revenues of non-basic aid schools. Proposition 98 ensures that state funds are provided to those schools to meet their constitutional funding guarantee, so they do not experience any financial loss. However, in those instances where there are too few non-basic aid schools in a county from which to transfer sufficient funds to pay the state's in-lieu VLF obligation, the state has historically provided annual appropriations to make up for the revenue shortfalls.

The Governor's 2023-24 proposed January budget and the May Revision failed to include funds to ensure that these local agencies were held harmless for losses associated with the VLF Swap. Without backfill, these counties and cities— through no fault of their own – will endure a significant reduction in general purpose revenue that will directly affect the provision of local programs and services in their respective communities, including public safety and public health services, at precisely the time when our respective members are being asked to do more. Our collective constituents rely on these services. As a result, we respectfully urge you to consider appropriating funds for this purpose in the final 2023-24 state budget.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
California



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Rural County Representatives of



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Ben Triffo
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities

cc: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Chris Hill, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance



May 26, 2023

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1020 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Governor's Budget Proposal for County Behavioral Health Payment Reform Funding:
Request to Approve**

Dear Director Stephenshaw, Chair Skinner, and Chair Ting:

On behalf of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CACFS), California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA), California Opioid Maintenance Providers (COMP), California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA), California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc (CAADPE), and Telecare Corporation, we urge you to approve the Administration's January Budget proposal for \$375 million state general fund to ensure that county behavioral health payment reform can be implemented by July 1st as planned by the Administration.

Behavioral health payment reform is a cornerstone of the CalAIM initiative and will transform how all Medi-Cal specialty mental health and substance use disorder treatment services are funded through

our county behavioral health plans. Reimbursement will shift for the first time in decades, from a cost-based reimbursement system to a fee-for-service plan rate structure. In addition, counties will shift financing from a system of upfront payment and reconciliation with the state (a process that can take place over a decade), to funding that is based on monthly claims. This monthly claim process requires counties to fund intergovernmental transfers prior to the submission of claims. Therefore, counties will require state general funds to mitigate the risk of counties simply running out of monthly cash to pay for these Medi-Cal claims.

In addition, counties do not have the ability to unilaterally redirect MHSA funding. Counties would need to apply MHSA funds according to the MHSA components and community priorities approved in three and five-year plans, and would not have the ability to spread those funds flexibly to ensure the overall Medi-Cal program expenditures are funded. In other words, MHSA funds are not specifically earmarked as a source of non-federal share for all Medi-Cal services and would still need to be approved through the local stakeholder process and spent according to MHSA components and plans.

Without the assistance of state general funds to ensure adequate cash flow as we transition to a new Medi-Cal financing mechanism (i.e., CPE to IGT) and payment methodology (cost-based to FFS), many counties will not have sufficient cashflow to ensure payment to providers. In the midst of a behavioral health crisis, and with the launch of CARE Court and the new mobile crisis benefit looming, the last thing we believe policymakers will want to see is a safety net that is unable to pay its providers. We urge support for the Administration's request for \$375 million in state general fund to support county behavioral health payment reform.

Sincerely,



Michelle Doty Cabrera
Executive Director
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
mcabrera@cbhda.org



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs
RCRC
mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org



Christine Stoner-Mertz, LCSW
Executive Director
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
chris@cacfs.org



Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer
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Kelly Brooks-Lindsay
Legislative Advocate
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Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
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Chad Costello, CPRP
Executive Director
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Anne Bakar
Anne Bakar
President & CEO
Telecare Corporation
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Jason Kletter, Ph.D.
President
COMP
jkletter@baymark.com



Robb Layne
Executive Director
CAADPE
robb@caadpe.org

cc: Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Stephanie Welch, Deputy Director, CalHHSA
Kimberly Chen, CalHHSA
Michelle Baass, Director, DHCS
Jacey Cooper, Medicaid Director, DHCS
Jacob Lam, Assistant Deputy Director, DHCS
Brian Fitzgerald, Chief, DHCS
Tyler Sadwith, Deputy Director, DHCS
Paula Wilhelm, Assistant Deputy Director, DHCS
Richard Figueroa, Office of Governor Newsom
Marjorie Swartz, Office of Pro Tem Atkins
Scott Ogus, Senate Budget
Joe Parra, Senate Republican Policy Office
Tim Conaghan, Senate Republican Policy Office
Anthony Archie, Senate Republican Fiscal
Mary Ader, Office of Speaker Rendon
Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Committee
Gino Folchi, Assembly Republican Caucus
Will Owens, LAO
Ryan Miller, LAO



May 17, 2023

The Honorable María Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate and Budget Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 5
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
No. 5
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Issue 5225 – California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Division of Juvenile Justice Closure
Budget Issue 5227 – Board of State and Community Corrections; Public Defense Pilot Program and PRCS Funding**

Dear Chairs Durazo and Bonta:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in response to the Governor’s May Revision to offer the county perspective on three budget items in your subcommittees’ jurisdiction: (1) the imminent closure of the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the lack of resources associated with the population of youth and young adults who will transfer back to their county of commitment; (2) the Governor’s proposal – unchanged from the January budget – to eliminate the third and final year of funding from the Public Defense Pilot Project; and (3) the adjusted funding level to support PRCS caseload impacts.

Item 5225: DJJ Realignment – County Resources Needed for Returning Youth

As updated in the May Revision, approximately 150 young people will remain in the care and custody of DJJ on the final closure date of June 30, 2023. A vital component to the successful transition of this population to county care remains notably absent –county resources to ensure the appropriate programs and placements are available to fully support the youth and young adults once in local custody and care. When DJJ Realignment was conceived and enacted via SB 823 in 2020, the realignment design contemplated a prospective transfer of responsibility beginning on July 1, 2021; resources for those youth accompanied the shift in responsibility and were enumerated

in statute. Importantly, the SB 823 model also contemplated that youth who already were placed in a DJJ facility as of July 1, 2021 would finish their custody term in the state's care, and DJJ facilities would close only after all youth had been discharged. That key element of the realignment design changed with the enactment of SB 92 in 2021, which – among other provisions – set a hard closure date for DJJ facilities on June 30, 2023. Neither that bill nor any subsequent measure provides resources to support the treatment or housing needs of the returning DJJ population.

Successful reintegration of this particular population of young people in their home communities and longer-term success demonstrated by recidivism reduction can only be achieved if resources accompany the transfer of this high-need population. The vulnerability and destabilization caused by the move out of a state facility heighten the need for a seamless transfer into an individually designed treatment plan and developmentally appropriate therapeutic setting best suited to address the young person's needs. We would urge the Legislature to provide resources to counties in specific recognition of local responsibilities associated with providing a healing environment and facilitating needed treatment for those transitioning from the state to county care.

Item 5227: Public Defense Pilot Project – Restoration of Third Year of Funding Needed

As was noted in our March advocacy letter, our associations remain very appreciative of the Legislature's commitment to providing resources for the provision of indigent criminal defense services at the local level. Since 2021-22, the state budget has dedicated funding to support resentencing workloads in recognition of recent law changes. The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget would eliminate the third and final year of this funding at a time when counties' efforts to fulfill the promise of the Public Defense Pilot Program are demonstrating meaningful impact, and that proposal remains unchanged in the May Revision. We urge the Legislature to retain the final year of funding to allow the pilot program to fulfill its promise.

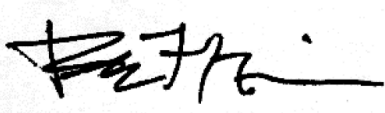
Item 5227: Funding for Post-Release Community Supervision – Support May Revision Adjustment

Finally, counties also support the state's continued investment in addressing Post-Release Community Supervision caseload impacts to counties resulting from implementation of various state prison population reduction strategies, including Proposition 57 – the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016. The May Revision

appropriately increases the budget year amount by \$1.1 million as compared to the January spending plan. CSAC, RCRC, and UCC strongly support the \$9.3 million, which reflects the amount necessary to address probation workload associated with individuals released early to probation supervision.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for a continued partnership in carrying out local initiatives.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate
CSAC
rmorimune@counties.org



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Advocate
UCC
ehe@hbeadvocacy.com

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5



CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
OF CALIFORNIA

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2023-24 State Budget – Homelessness Funding and Accountability

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (CAPAGPC), Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), and California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), we write to extend our commitment to working with you to ensure true accountability and progress in our efforts to combat homelessness in our state. We are grateful for your leadership in making unprecedented investments in recent years and share your goals of ensuring that homelessness funding is used as effectively as possible, that there are enhanced accountability measures in place, and that real progress is achieved in reducing the number of Californians who are unhoused.

Our organizations believe the best way to achieve those goals is through the adoption of the Accountability pillar of the AT HOME plan. Developed through a lengthy all-county effort, the AT HOME plan would establish a comprehensive homelessness system with clear lines of responsibility, accountability, and sustainable funding. It rests on a foundation of true accountability for all entities, and we respectfully request your consideration of our accountability policy recommendations that are detailed below as you consider the 2023-24 state Budget Act.

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals in California. While the state and local governments have made unparalleled investments in addressing homelessness and dedicated staff are working every day to help provide services and housing, California does not have a comprehensive homelessness plan that assigns roles and responsibilities at every level of government – the state, counties, and cities. Whereas practically every other state policy area has a system in place, the way we deal with homelessness is fragmented and lacks clear lines of responsibility, accountability, and sustainability.

The AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) outlines a comprehensive homelessness response system that includes clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government. The six pillars of the AT HOME plan include a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness.

The policy recommendations contained in the Accountability pillar form the core elements of a proposed comprehensive homelessness system. We are asking for the adoption of these provisions within a trailer bill as part of the state budget process. CSAC has drafted the Accountability pillar as trailer bill language and is sharing with appropriate staff within the Administration and the Legislature.

The key elements of the Accountability pillar include:

- Consolidate Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant and reporting countywide or within a multi-county region to support a countywide or regional plan.
 - The plan would be funded through one fiscal agent to provide clear accountability.
 - Funded entities must submit a local homelessness action plan that includes clear outcome goals on a range of metrics, including how the plan addresses equity.
 - In some instances, such as large counties with big cities, a countywide plan with multiple fiscal agents may be accommodated.
- Require counties and cities to agree to a defined set of roles and responsibilities related to homelessness as a condition of receiving HHAP funding.
 - County responsibilities include administering health and social safety net programs on behalf of the state, providing Medi-Cal specialty mental health and substance use disorder services, and siting and supporting shelters, siting permanent supportive housing, and encampment clean-up in unincorporated areas.
 - City responsibilities include siting and supporting shelters, siting permanent supportive housing, and encampment clean-up in incorporated areas.
 - Counties and cities would work together to locally agree to roles and responsibilities related to encampment outreach.
- Provide HHAP funding ongoing to support one countywide or regional plan to address homelessness.
 - Allocations through the fiscal agent would be determined by the agreed upon plan and commensurate with the level of roles and responsibilities that each entity has within the plan.
 - Maximize local flexibility for uses of this funding in order that funded entities have the ability to best utilize this funding at the local level to achieve the goals of the homelessness action plan.
 - Provide performance-based funding for countywide plans that meet metrics in reducing homelessness.
 - Establish a minimum county amount to ensure that smaller counties can sufficiently support staffing and programs.

True progress on homelessness can only be achieved when it is clear who is responsible for what, and when sustainable funding and accountability provisions are aligned with those defined responsibilities. That is what can be accomplished with the AT HOME plan. The time to make a significant change to our

approach to homelessness is now and we look forward to partnering with you on this urgent humanitarian issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC
gknaus@counties.org



Cathy Senderling-McDonald
Executive Director
CWDA
csend@cwda.org



Josh Gauger
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Tracy Rhine
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Michelle Doty Cabrera
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mcabrera@cbhda.org



Cory Salzillo
Legislative Director
CSSA
cory@wpssgroup.com

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency
Dana Williamson, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Newsom
Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom



CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
OF CALIFORNIA

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2023-24 State Budget – Homelessness Funding and Accountability

Dear Senate President pro Tempore Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (CAPAGPC), Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), and California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), we write to extend our commitment to working with you to ensure true accountability and progress in our efforts to combat homelessness in our state. We are grateful for your leadership in making unprecedented investments in recent years and share your goals of ensuring that homelessness funding is used as effectively as possible, that there are enhanced accountability measures in place, and that real progress is achieved in reducing the number of Californians who are unhoused.

Our organizations believe the best way to achieve those goals is through the adoption of the Accountability pillar of the AT HOME plan. Developed through a lengthy all-county effort, the AT HOME plan would establish a comprehensive homelessness system with clear lines of responsibility, accountability, and sustainable funding. It rests on a foundation of true accountability for all entities, and we respectfully request your consideration of our accountability policy recommendations that are detailed below as you consider the 2023-24 state Budget Act.

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals in California. While the state and local governments have made unparalleled investments in addressing homelessness and dedicated staff are working every day to help provide services and housing, California does not have a comprehensive homelessness plan that assigns roles and responsibilities at every level of government – the state, counties, and cities. Whereas practically every other state policy area has a system in place, the way we deal with homelessness is fragmented and lacks clear lines of responsibility, accountability, and sustainability.

The AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) outlines a comprehensive homelessness response system that includes clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government. The six pillars of the AT HOME plan include a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness.

The policy recommendations contained in the Accountability pillar form the core elements of a proposed comprehensive homelessness system. We are asking for the adoption of these provisions within a trailer bill as part of the state budget process. CSAC has drafted the Accountability pillar as trailer bill language and is sharing with appropriate staff within the Administration and the Legislature.

The key elements of the Accountability pillar include:

- Consolidate Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant and reporting countywide or within a multi-county region to support a countywide or regional plan.
 - The plan would be funded through one fiscal agent to provide clear accountability.
 - Funded entities must submit a local homelessness action plan that includes clear outcome goals on a range of metrics, including how the plan addresses equity.
 - In some instances, such as large counties with big cities, a countywide plan with multiple fiscal agents may be accommodated.
- Require counties and cities to agree to a defined set of roles and responsibilities related to homelessness as a condition of receiving HHAP funding.
 - County responsibilities include administering health and social safety net programs on behalf of the state, providing Medi-Cal specialty mental health and substance use disorder services, and siting and supporting shelters, siting permanent supportive housing, and encampment clean-up in unincorporated areas.
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 - Maximize local flexibility for uses of this funding in order that funded entities have the ability to best utilize this funding at the local level to achieve the goals of the homelessness action plan.
 - Provide performance-based funding for countywide plans that meet metrics in reducing homelessness.
 - Establish a minimum county amount to ensure that smaller counties can sufficiently support staffing and programs.

True progress on homelessness can only be achieved when it is clear who is responsible for what, and when sustainable funding and accountability provisions are aligned with those defined responsibilities. That is what can be accomplished with the AT HOME plan. The time to make a significant change to our

approach to homelessness is now and we look forward to partnering with you on this urgent humanitarian issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC
gknaus@counties.org



Josh Gauger
Legislative Advocate
UCC
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Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
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Cathy Senderling-McDonald
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Karen Pank
Executive Director
CPOC
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Cory Salzillo
Legislative Director
CSSA
cory@wpssgroup.com

cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Chris Woods, Office of President pro Tempore Atkins
Jason Sisney, Office of Speaker Rendon
Elisa Wynne, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Assembly Budget Committee



May 31, 2023

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

**AB 6 (Friedman) Transportation planning: regional transportation plans:
Solutions for Congested Corridors Program: reduction of greenhouse gas
emissions**

**As Amended on March 16, 2023 – INACTIVE FILE or NO Vote
Assembly Third Reading File**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) request that AB 6 (Friedman) be placed on the inactive file or that you vote NO on this bill.

Counties build, repair, and maintain the roads that are an integral part of the state's multimodal transportation system. Counties have participated in an active and sincere role in Assemblymember Friedman's stakeholder process since January 2023 which was focused on trying to build consensus-based policy proposals on transportation-climate change related issues of concern to her. Unfortunately, the bill in print fails to achieve this metric.

Although the current version of the bill has limited impacts for counties, amendments currently being contemplated would directly affect counties that require additional review and consideration. It is our understanding that Assemblymember Friedman intends to make AB 6 a two-year bill, but only after it moves to the Senate. Rather, we respectfully request AB 6 be placed on the inactive file in the Assembly. This will allow the stakeholder process to continue throughout the fall while also adhering to appropriate legislative procedure giving the Assembly a chance to vote on the product of continued conversations early next year.

We urge the Assemblymember to work with us over the fall and amend a consensus bill in January and give the full Assembly the opportunity to weigh in. For these reasons we believe this bill should be placed on the inactive file.

If you need additional information on our position, please contact Mark Neuburger (CSAC) at mneuburger@counties.org. Kiana Valentine (UCC) at kiana@politicogroup.com, or Sidd Nag (RCRC) at snag@rcrcnet.org. We respectfully request this bill be placed on the INACTIVE FILE or that you vote "NO" on this bill.



Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Alameda County

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair
San Diego County

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3220
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: AB 30 (Ward) – Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program
As revised 3/14/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 6/13/2023 – Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee**

Dear Senator Min:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California, a coalition of 14 of our state's most populous counties, I write in support of AB 30, Assembly Member Christopher Ward's measure that would establish the Atmospheric Rivers Research and Forecast Improvement Program: Enabling Climate Adaptation through Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations and Hazard Resiliency (AR/FIRO) Program within the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

As we have experienced so acutely in our state this winter, atmospheric rivers (ARs) are significant weather events that produce considerable precipitation and – along with the beneficial aspects of the moisture – often present considerable water management challenges and flood risks. AB 30 would build on existing investments the Legislature has made in DWR's Atmospheric Rivers Program, which would be renamed and its focused refined under this bill. AB 30 would direct DWR to draw more heavily on the increased predictive capability around ARs and to better integrate forecast-informed reservoir operations into their practices. FIRO is a strategy used by reservoir managers that relies on enhanced forecasting and predictive models about ARs to make more informed water release decisions, resulting in reduced flood risks and increased water supply.

In 2022, the UCC Board adopted water policy principles and policy statements based on three interrelated pillars addressing (1) funding, (2) drought response and mitigation, and (3) clean and safe drinking water. Of particular relevance to AB 30, urban counties support an array of efforts to increase water availability, reliability, conservation, storage, and delivery. We appreciate that this measure would strengthen our state's drought resilience by incorporating FIRO into DWR's operations, an effort that can ensure our state is better prepared for managing both the risks and benefits of ARs.

AB 30 (Ward) – UCC Support
June 6, 2023 | Page 2

For these reasons, UCC is pleased to support AB 30, and we urge your committee's most positive consideration when the measure comes before you. Thank you for considering the urban county perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Espinosa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Espinosa
UCC Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
The Honorable Christopher Ward, Member of the Assembly



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7330
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 386 (Nguyen): California Right to Financial Privacy Act
As Amended April 27, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing June 13, 2023 Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of AB 386 by Assembly Member Nguyen. This bill will improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from the growing threat of financial abuse.

County APS Departments are responsible for investigating alleged incidences of abuse of older and dependent adults, including financial abuse. This role is expanding with the population that APS serves, which has grown and changed significantly since the program's inception. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older— double what the over-65 population is today. Many of these individuals will also be disabled, cognitively impaired, or facing housing instability. County APS programs struggle to address an evolving landscape of abuse and neglect, including an increase of financial abuse and scams targeting this growing population. As of 2021, California ranks first nationally in total monetary losses, and third in per-capita monetary losses, experienced by victims of elder financial abuse.¹

County APS investigators experience restrictions that impede their ability to protect victims. Once an APS investigator has been granted access, they are restricted to only financial records dating from a period of 30 days before and after the date of any alleged illegal activity (60 days total). Limiting access to such a narrow window of time makes it significantly harder for APS to identify normal spending habits of the alleged victim, which is necessary to identify abnormal and potentially illegal activity.

¹ 2021 DOJ Elder Fraud Report: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1523276/download>

Page 2

June 7, 2023

AB 386 (Nguyen) – CSAC/UCC/RCRC – SUPPORT

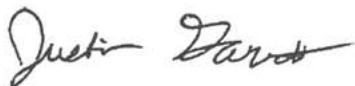
Additionally, APS is severely limited in the types of financial information that they can access. APS is excluded from accessing information that counties have identified as potentially critical to uncovering financial abuse and scams. This includes information related to newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

AB 386 is intended to address the challenges posed by these tight restrictions. This bill will assist APS in effectively investigating allegations of abuse by: 1) extending the period for which APS can request records to 90 days prior and 60 days following the alleged illegal act, and 2) expanding the types of items APS can request from a bank or financial institution to include information regarding newly issued cards, changes of addresses and information regarding trusts or Power of Attorney.

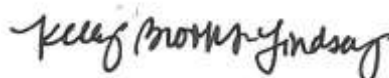
The changes included in this bill will better ensure that APS is able to meet the needs of the growing population of older and dependent adults and uncover incidences of financial abuse. In better protecting victims from identity theft and abuse, this bill ultimately improves victims' privacy from those who would do them harm.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC are pleased to SUPPORT AB 386, and respectfully request your "Aye" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
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Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
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916-447-4806

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Nguyen
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA



PRISM
Public Risk Innovation,
Solutions, and Management



CAJPA
California Association of
Joint Powers Authorities

May 30, 2023

AB 504 (Reyes) Assembly Floor Alert Oppose

AB 504 (Reyes) State and Local Public Employees: Labor Relations: Disputes.
As Amended April 13, 2023 – OPPOSE

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Public Risk Innovation Solutions, and Management (PRISM), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and California Special Districts Association (CSDA) are respectfully **opposed to Assembly Bill 504.**

Under current law, [essential employees](#) of a local public agency as defined by the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) law cannot engage in a primary or sympathy strike. **AB 504 would:**

- Override the essential employee process at PERB, thereby creating a system where any employee can sympathy strike, which could result in workforce shortages that jeopardize our ability to provide critical health and safety functions, including disaster response, emergency services, dispatch, mobile crisis response, health care, law enforcement, corrections, elections, road maintenance, and other essential services.
- Void Local MOU provisions around striking and sympathy striking that ensures local governments can continue to provide critical services.
- Allow those who have not gone through the negotiation process to now refuse to work simply because another bargaining unit is engaging in striking.

Shutting down government operations for sympathy strikes is an extreme approach that goes well beyond what is allowed for primary strikes and risks the public's health and safety. AB 504 jeopardizes the delivery of services and undermines the collective bargaining process.

Vote NO on AB 504



June 1, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 557 (Hart) – Support [As Introduced]

Hearing Date: June 7, 2023 – *Senate Governance and Finance Committee*

Dear Senator Caballero:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to express our support for Assembly Bill 557 (Hart), related to emergency remote meeting procedures under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The changes made to California Government Code section 54953 by Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021) were of vital importance to local agencies looking to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue to conduct the people's business. These changes were necessary in order to permit local agencies to meet during a time that it would have otherwise been impossible to meet in-person safely. Important safeguards were included to ensure transparency and accountability, including the fact that the emergency provisions were only applicable in instances where the California Governor had declared a state of emergency.

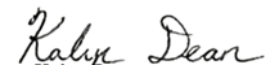
While California seeks to transition to a post-COVID era, the threat of additional emergencies remains, as has been made abundantly clear by recent flooding and wildfires. Absent any legislative intervention, the processes established by AB 361 to provide remote meeting flexibility to local agencies in emergency circumstances will expire at the end of this year. To remain best equipped to address future emergencies and allow local agencies to effectively react and respond, AB 557 would eliminate the sunset on the emergency remote meeting procedures added to California Government Code section 54953. Additionally, AB 557 would adjust the timeframe for the resolutions passed to renew an agency's temporary transition to emergency remote meetings to 45 days, up from the previous number of 30 days.

This legislation will preserve an effective tool for local agencies facing emergencies that would otherwise prevent them from conducting the people's business when faced with an emergency. For these reasons, the undersigned organizations are pleased to support Assembly Bill 557 (Hart).

Sincerely,



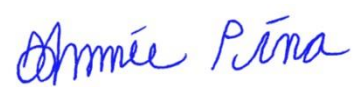
Marcus Detwiler
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts
Association



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State
Association of Counties



Carlos Machado
Legislative Advocate
California School Boards
Association



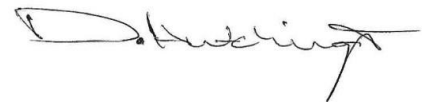
Johnnie Piña
Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
League of California Cities



Sarah Bridge
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California
Healthcare Districts



Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Advocate
Association of California School
Administrators



Dane Hutchings
Managing Director
Renne Public Policy Group
on behalf of
City Clerks Association of California



Rena Masten Leddy
Board President
California Downtown Association



Danielle Blacet-Hyden
Deputy Executive Director
California Municipal Utilities Association



Martha Alvarez
Chief of Legislative Affairs and
Governmental Relations
Los Angeles Unified School District



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of
California



Jean Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

CC: The Honorable Gregg Hart
Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Jonathan Peterson, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom



FLOOR ALERT

To: Honorable Members of the California State Assembly

Date: May 24, 2023

Re: **Assembly Bill 985 (Arambula) – Request a NO Vote**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), respectfully request your **NO vote** on Assembly Bill 985 (Arambula). AB 985 would undermine local control by imposing new limitations on the existing emission reductions credit (ERC) program. ERCs play a critical role in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (District) efforts to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

We appreciate interest from the Legislature in the improvement of air quality in the Valley, however, we understand there was no engagement with the District or the numerous array of Valley stakeholders impacted by AB 985 to find the best way to support their current efforts. The use of ERCs, specifically, has been developed in coordination with, and with oversight by, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Only businesses that institute voluntary policies to control emissions beyond what is required by the District's rigorous air quality regulations qualify for an ERC. Every proposed ERC is made available for review and comment by CARB, EPA, and the public prior to being issued. This exhaustive process was designed to ensure that the ERC program is successfully contributing to the District's clean air goals, best serves residents, and will not cause a health risk to surrounding communities. Because the District's air quality regulations are among the most stringent requirements in the nation, it is exceedingly difficult and expensive for businesses to reduce emissions beyond rule requirements to generate ERCs.

We share the goal of improving the environment and public health for San Joaquin Valley residents, however, we firmly believe that maintaining local control is the best way to accomplish these goals. The ERC expiration requirement in Assembly Bill 985 would eliminate all but a few ERCs currently contained within the Valley's ERC registry and create an effective moratorium on permitting projects for a wide range of businesses and essential public services.

It is for these reasons we urge you to **vote NO on AB 985**. For questions contact Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, Jean Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com, or Staci Heaton (RCRC) at sheaton@rcrcnet.org.



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Senator Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1020 (Grayson) County Employees Retirement Law of 1937: disability retirement: medical conditions: employment-related presumption – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Cortese:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in respectful opposition to AB 1020 (Grayson), which would change the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 by expanding the scope of medical conditions and employment-related presumptions for a disability retirement for firefighters, members in active law enforcement, and public safety members who have completed five years or more of service and that arise out of and in the course of employment.

We recognize that firefighters, members in active law enforcement, and public safety members serve our state with distinction in some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Some of these workers suffer from injuries related to their work that warrant access to the workers' compensation system. We believe these employees are currently provided with fair access to the workers' compensation system for injuries, and therefore, AB 1020 is unnecessary. We reject the unproven assertion that a presumption is needed for these workers to fairly access benefits. In addition, we are not aware of any objective analysis that substantiates a need for the massive expansion of applicability for presumptions, as proposed by AB 1020.

California law provides that injuries are covered by workers' compensation if the injury is suffered during the course and scope of employment. Accordingly, injuries are covered if the employee is at work engaged in any work-related activity. Injured workers can file a claim providing details of their injury for the purposes of determining whether their injury meets the latter requirements. If there is a dispute over the facts of an injury, the decision is rendered by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. The ALJ is already required by law to liberally construe California law with the purpose of extending their benefits for the protection of persons injured in the course of their employment.

We anticipate that AB 1020 would add considerable new costs for public employers at a time when budgets are facing significant headwinds. While the state is experiencing a revenue shortfall after gains that have exceeded expectations and historical precedent year after year, per capita revenues for some local governments have never recovered from the Great

The Honorable Dave Cortese

May 22, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Recession of 2007 to 2009, in real dollars. Regretfully, this means that any increase in costs as a result of AB 1020 may impact funding for the critical services provided by local governments, ranging from law enforcement and emergency service responses to behavioral health services, libraries, and agricultural services, to name just a few.

For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully urge your "No" vote on AB 1020. Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
kdean@counties.org
CSAC



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com
UCC



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
RCRC

cc: Assemblymember Tim Grayson, 15th Assembly District
Members and Staff, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Scott Seekatz, Senate Republican Caucus



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Steve Glazer, Chair
Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1248 (Bryan): Local redistricting: independent commissions
As amended 6/13/23 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
Set for hearing 6/20/23 – Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Committee**

Dear Senator Glazer:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we write to share our opposition to Assembly Bill 1248, which would require counties with populations of 300,000 or above to create an independent redistricting commission for the 2030 redistricting process.

While we acknowledge the Legislature's interest in requiring broad adoption of independent redistricting commissions at the local level, AB 1248 does not provide the necessary resources for counties to execute a successful independent redistricting commission process. To that end, we continue to urge amendments to the bill that ensure counties are fully reimbursed for costs and incorporate more robust statutory and technical assistance supports to ensure that local agencies are able to effectively deliver on the promise of independent redistricting. Additionally, we suggest amendments that would limit the scope of the bill in 2031 to those cities and counties with populations of 500,000 and to incorporate an independent assessment of the 2031 redistricting process in these jurisdictions to better understand the outcomes and impacts faced by local agencies, their independent commissions, and stakeholders before expanding a mandate to convene an independent redistricting commission to additional jurisdictions.

In terms of numbers of affected agencies, AB 1248 applies to counties most broadly. According to the most recent Department of Finance population estimates, the bill would currently apply in 22 counties; removing those counties already subject statutorily to independent redistricting commissions (Fresno, Los Angeles, Kern, Riverside, and San Diego) and those with ordinances establishing their own independent commissions (Santa

Barbara), leaving 16 counties subject to the bill. These counties, and likely their city and school counterparts, will be expected to faithfully execute the Legislature's direction to create, fund, and administer these commissions while at the same time managing their own activities to ensure that the new commissions are in fact independent. We have concerns about the capacity for those counties between the 300,000 and 500,000 in population to effectively carry out the provisions of the measure. These counties are likely to be the ones requiring additional technical assistance and support as well as resources to execute the provisions of the measure successfully.

Further, requiring an independent study of the proposed redistricting commissions before expanding the requirements of the measure to additional jurisdictions allows for sharing of best practices, an assessment of necessary resources, and an understanding of common challenges in order to help facilitate successful implementation in smaller communities.

Balancing the need for appropriate and necessary involvement at the county level with the statutory directive to ensure the commission's independence is a complex and challenging endeavor and, to date, California law does not contain additional direction to counties or their corresponding commissions nor does the state provide any technical assistance to assist when issues arise. In general, the state should provide additional guidance to counties and the corresponding commissions in the statute in areas where there is a lack of clarity and provide some avenue for technical assistance; this work should be informed by the experiences in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Barbara Counties during the previous redistricting cycle, to ensure consistent practices on issues like contracting for staff, reasonable expectations for covering costs, managing litigation, maintaining a commission, and the like. Without such direction, counties and their commissions will be left to make decisions about managing the commission process on their own, informed only by the practices of their peers or their own best judgment. While counties are capable of addressing such uncertainties in the normal course of business, the "independent" nature of these commissions make it inherently difficult to have confidence as to where the line between independence and not exists.

We also reiterate the well-known fact that county elections and redistricting work are under-resourced, from a fiscal and human perspective and that there is a current lack of redistricting professionals available to provide competent assistance at a reasonable cost. The existing shortage of redistricting professionals will be exacerbated by the proposed AB 764, the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023, which will apply to hundreds of local government entities and require significant professional assistance to accomplish. There are simply not enough redistricting attorneys, map drawers, and consultants to go around and counties – and their independent redistricting commissions – will be ill-equipped to assess the expertise of such professionals without assistance. As mentioned, we are concerned with the capacity to implement this bill in the five rural counties included within the population threshold. The funding disparities, along with staffing and consultant shortages, are often magnified in smaller counties.

The promise of local independent redistricting commissions, as outlined in AB 1248, is to "ensure better outcomes for communities, in terms of fairness, transparency, public

engagement, and representation.” To successfully achieve this promise, counties need more than a directive to establish a commission. They – and their corresponding commissions – need real, concrete supports from the state, including statutory changes informed by the experiences of counties that have already been through the process, financial resources, and real-time technical assistance. Without this kind of support, we are concerned that counties will be set up for failure and such a failure would only serve to validate public distrust in the redistricting process and in our democratic systems that are already under intense public scrutiny.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns, as well as our suggested amendments, as we offer them in recognition of the Legislature’s interest in requiring local independent redistricting commissions. If these efforts are to be successful, the state must do more to ensure that counties have the resources they need to effectuate a process that the Legislature expects and that voters deserve. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if we can offer additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
kdean@counties.org

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Committee
The Honorable Isaac Bryan, California State Assembly
Cory Botts, Elections Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 1484 (Zbur): Temporary public employees As Amended May 18, 2023 – OPPOSE

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), the California Association of Recreation and Parks Districts (CARPD), California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA), and the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO), and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) we are strongly opposed to Assembly Bill 1484 (Zbur) related to temporary employment. As written, AB 1484 includes requirements that will be difficult, if not impossible, for public employers to fulfill, including provisions that conflict with existing law for permanent employees.

Overly Broad Definition of a Temporary Employee

AB 1484 includes an overly broad definition of a temporary employee, which reaches far beyond the stated purpose of the bill. "Extra help" employees are often retained for seasonal or "surge" needs, such as nurses, election workers, paid interns, mosquito and vector control technicians, and parks and recreation staff, like lifeguards and summer camp counselors. The definition also includes "casual employees" who, under PERB's own definition, lack a sufficient community of interest with regular or temporary employees due to their sporadic or intermittent relation with the employer. AB 1484 would further have unintended and unpredictable consequences when applied to the myriad existing local programs and the laws governing them. For example:

- Many temporary employees are retired annuitants, whose terms and conditions of employment are strictly controlled by state law in ways that would severely impair any meaningful bargaining. Including these annuitants within a bargaining unit comprised of regular employees – who have flexibility and benefits legally prohibited to annuitants – is virtually guaranteed to produce friction and anomalous results.
- Public agencies often offer paid student internship programs, which provide valuable work experience for the next generation of public employees. Requiring agencies to include such temporary positions within the bargaining unit will strongly discourage local governments from offering such programs (or will encourage them to offer only unpaid internships, to the detriment of financially vulnerable students).

Creates Inconsistency in Bargaining Unit Determination Process

This bill would inflexibly mandate that temporary employees must be included within the same bargaining unit as permanent employees; and that the wages, hours, plus terms and conditions of employment for both temporary and permanent employees must be bargained together in a single memorandum of understanding. The bill thus precludes local jurisdictions from creating a specific bargaining unit shared by all temporary employees with similar interests. The terms and conditions for permanent employees are typically negotiated based upon assumptions regarding benefits (such as CalPERS) and protections (such as the Family and Medical Leave Act), that apply only to employees who work for a certain period of time. Temporary employees will often be ineligible for these benefits and protections, making parity or "community of interest" with regular employees in the bargaining unit incompatible and producing yet further friction and anomalous results. The MMBA currently provides a robust mechanism for determining employees' bargaining units to ensure that each unit shares a "community of interest" and can therefore bargain effectively. As written, this bill upsets that mechanism significantly for one class of employees.

Creates Inconsistency between Rights of Temporary Employees and Permanent Employees

AB 1484 provides temporary employees with rights in excess of those provided to permanent employees. Discipline and discharge of all employees should be a matter within the scope of representation and established through local collective bargaining. The bill proposes a grievance procedure that will practically conflict with provisions for permanent employees. Nearly every public agency has a probationary period for permanent employees (often 6-12 months), during which the employee may be released without cause and without triggering a grievance. This probationary period is a critical part of the hiring process – and if public employers cannot use this process for temporary employees, they will be vastly less likely to hire temporary employees. Moreover, the bill provides that these provisions for temporary employees apply unless affirmatively waived by the employee organization – i.e., public employers cannot impose more flexible discharge provisions after bargaining to impasse – a restriction unique to temporary employees, further disincentivizing their hiring.

For the above reasons, RCRC, CSAC, UCC, Cal Cities, CSDA, CARPD, CAJPA, CACEO, and CMUA respectfully oppose AB 1484.

Vote NO on AB 1484

cc: The Honorable Rick Zbur, Member, California State Assembly
The Honorable Members, California State Assembly
Mary Hernandez, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
George Wiley, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Jenna Guillen, Floor Manager, Assembly Republican Caucus



May 25, 2023

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

AB 1637 (Irwin): Local government: internet websites and email addresses *(As amended 5/18/23)*

OPPOSE

File # 561

Assembly Bill 1637 would require cities and counties to secure and migrate to a new .gov or .ca.gov domain no later than January 1, 2027. It would also require all email addresses to reflect the updated domain within the same time frame. Migrating to a new domain (and corresponding email addresses) would require significant investment, adversely impacting critical services and programs. In this constrained fiscal climate, we are hard-pressed to consider a project of this scope as a statewide, jurisdiction-wide priority among other direct service responsibilities to local communities are already obligated.

- AB 1637 will impose **significant costs** to local agencies across the state, particularly during a period of economic decline.
- AB 1637 will result in **confusion and frustration** as residents are redirected from their trusted local agency website to an unfamiliar website.
- AB 1637 **hurts smaller entities the hardest**. Those without dedicated IT staff or resources will have to contract out to meet the proposed deadline.
- AB 1637 **does not add any layer of new protection** against cyber security threats.

Vote NO on AB 1637

For questions contact Damon Conklin (Cal Cities) at dconklin@calcities.org, Kalyn Dean (CSAC) at kdean@counties.org, Dane Hutchings (CCAC) at dhutchings@publicpolicygroup.com, Sarah Dukett (RCRC) at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, or Jean Kinney Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

CCAC
CITY CLERKS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

URBAN COUNTIES
OF CALIFORNIA

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Ann Caballero, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1637 (Irwin): Local government: internet websites and email addresses**
OPPOSE (As amended 5/18/23)

Dear Senator Caballero:

The undersigned organizations are regrettably **opposed to Assembly Bill 1637** which would require local agencies to secure and migrate to a new .gov or .ca.gov domain no later than January 1, 2027. It would also require all email addresses connected to reflect the updated domain within the same time frame.

We acknowledge the intended goal of this measure; however, our members have worked hard to establish websites that are known and trusted by the communities they serve. While the measure allows for website redirection, doing so will only add to confusion as residents are redirected from their trusted local agency website to a new landing page that would not comport to the addresses on public facing material including business cards, fleets, letterhead, elections, and other public outreach materials, etc. The result could compromise local communities' trust in their local leaders and would only create frustration in administering a transparent and user-focused government website.

In short, we remain deeply concerned about the added costs associated with migrating to a new domain and corresponding email addresses; public confusion that will potentially be created; and the absence of any dedicated resources to assist local agencies with this proposed migration.

Initial sampling of local governments has identified considerable costs and programmatic impacts that would result from AB 1637. While applying for and obtaining a .gov domain has no fees, there are significant costs that an agency must budget for to recode, establish corresponding e-mails, and network login changes, single sign on/multi-factors authentication, encryption keys, revising and redesign website/url links, updating social media and external entities. All of these costs are increased two-fold to co-exist both the previous and newly acquired domains.

Further, we know that smaller local entities will be challenged to meet the current deadline without existing IT staff. In this constrained fiscal climate, we are hard-pressed to consider a project of this scope as a statewide, jurisdiction-wide priority among other direct service responsibilities to local communities for which our members are already obligated.

AB 1637 leaves local agencies with a considerable mandate that is likely unattainable for many local agencies, particularly in a period of economic decline. Collectively, our organizations and respective members promote safe, recognizable, and trustworthy online services; however, AB 1637 will impose significant costs to local agencies across the state.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, Cal Cities at dconklin@calcities.org, Kalyn Dean, Legislative Advocate, CSAC, at kdean@counties.org, Dane Hutchings, Legislative Advocate, City Clerks Association of California (CCAC) at dhutchings@publicpolicygroup.com, Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, RCRC, at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, and Jean Kinney Hurst, Legislative Advocate, UCC at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com.

Sincerely,



Damon Conklin
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities




Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Dane Hutchings
City Clerks Association of California

cc: The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Kyle Krueger, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg and Kayla Williams, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus



May 30, 2023

FLOOR ALERT

To: Honorable Members, California State Assembly

RE: **AB 1713 (Gipson) State and local agencies: federal funds: reports
As Amended May 18, 2023 – OPPOSE**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) are opposed to Assembly Bill 1713 (Gipson), due to the considerable costs it would impose on local governments.

AB 1713 would require state agencies that receive federal funds subject to an expiration date to submit a written report to the Legislature no later than one year before the funding expiration date with a summary of how funds have been expended, and to provide a plan for the remaining funds to be expended if 50 percent of funds have not yet been expended. The bill would also require local agencies to include a similar report on an agenda of a public meeting of their legislative body.

Local governments rely on federal funding to provide numerous local services on behalf of the state, much of which is associated with our role as the provider of federal entitlement programs, like Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, etc. Accordingly, local governments seek to maximize federal funding opportunities to provide these necessary services to the residents we serve. Unfortunately, AB 1713 would require local governments to be in a state of perpetual reporting or – in most instances – require duplicative reporting.

The level of oversight and reporting mandates proposed through AB 1713 would add considerable staffing costs for all local governments. Local agencies would likely be required to hire additional budgetary staff to track and report this information to their own legislative bodies. Extrapolated statewide, these costs could range in the millions to tens of millions of dollars annually, while doing nothing to address real problems in utilizing federal resources.

CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Cal Cities urge your “no” vote on AB 1713. Please reach out to Jean Kinney Hurst, Urban Counties of California, at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com if you have any questions about our position.



Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Alameda County

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair
San Diego County

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: SB 21 (Umberg) – Civil actions: remote proceedings
As amended 2/23/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 6/13/2023 – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Chair Maienschein:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California, a coalition of 14 of the state's most populous counties, I write in support of SB 21, Senator Tom Umberg's measure that would extend the sunset provisions applicable to the use of remote proceedings for specified civil court hearings. Under current law, the use of remote court proceedings is set to expire on June 30, 2023; SB 21 would extend that authority for a specified set of civil court proceedings through January 1, 2026.

As you are aware, the Legislature enacted the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act (SB 1338 – Chapter 318, Statutes of 2022) last year. The first cohort of counties will implement, beginning October 1, a new civil court process that seeks to connect individuals with specific mental health diagnoses to an individualized care plan. Of the seven Cohort 1 counties and one additional county that is expected to go live on December 1, 2023, five are UCC member counties. Our Board's 2023 advocacy priorities include language promoting maximum resources, authority, and operational flexibility to facilitate successful CARE Act implementation both for counties and participants alike.

Authorizing the use of remote technology in civil court proceedings, including CARE Act hearings, would, in UCC's view, enhance participant engagement and promote positive program outcomes. If counties can bring the CARE court process to respondents – many of whom may be unhoused – the likelihood of meaningful and sustained participation in the CARE proceedings will increase.

1127 11TH STREET,
SUITE 810
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916.327.7531

URBANCOUNTIES.COM

The Voice of Urban Counties: Alameda • Contra Costa • Fresno • Los Angeles • Orange •
Riverside • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San Joaquin •
San Mateo • Santa Clara • Ventura



SB 21 (Umberg) – Remote proceedings in civil cases
Urban Counties of California – SUPPORT
June 6, 2023 | Page 2

Without a remote hearing option, real and very practical complications arise when an unhoused individual must leave behind personal possessions and/or pets to join an in-person court appearance; as a result, CARE court participants may choose to not take advantage of the CARE process and opportunities under their individualized care plan. UCC believes SB 21 represents an important piece of achieving the larger goals envisioned in SB 1338 for the most vulnerable in our communities: breaking the cycles of homelessness and incarceration, promoting long-term recovery, and fostering safer and healthier communities across our state.

While SB 21 offers the added benefits of increasing access to justice and advancing efficiencies in court operations, UCC supports this measure specifically because of its direct and meaningful application in the CARE court context. We urge your committee's most positive consideration when this measure comes before you. Thank you for considering the urban county perspective.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Espinosa
UCC Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Tom Umberg, Member of the Senate



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N St., Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 34 (Umberg) – Oppose Unless Amended [As Amended February 22, 2023]

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The statewide associations and individual local agencies listed above must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 34 (Umberg), unless it is amended to address our concerns discussed below.

SB 34 will amend the Surplus Land Act (SLA) to provide that if the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), pursuant to Government Code Section 54230.5, notifies the County of Orange, or any city located within Orange County, that its planned sale or lease of surplus land is in violation of the SLA, certain procedures for addressing the notice of violation must be followed.

As written, the bill may create a concerning precedent for all local agencies statewide. Because SB 34 includes a reference to notices of violation from HCD in connection with a “sale **or lease**” by a local agency, the bill may establish a statutory precedent that leases are subject to the SLA. Notwithstanding guidelines developed by HCD defining “disposition of surplus land,” at this time the term “dispose” is undefined in the SLA, and prior legislative efforts to define “dispose” to include leases were unsuccessful. Removing and excluding the bill’s reference to leases would in no way compromise or otherwise impact the ability of this legislation to address a planned sale of surplus land by the County of Orange or any city located within Orange County. However, including any reference to leases in the bill would be inconsistent with the clear, established legislative intent for the meaning of disposal of surplus land that is subject to the requirements of the SLA as currently written. We therefore oppose SB 34 unless it is amended to remove its reference to leases and HCD notices of violations in connection with planned leases.

Local agencies routinely enter leases for a variety of purposes that support their work or operations and that do not relate to the purposes of the SLA. Examples include a cell tower lease, a lease to a nonprofit for office space because that nonprofit is partnering with a local government to further a governmental purpose, and a short-term lease of park space.

The clear, established intent of the Legislature is not to apply the requirements of the SLA for surplus land to leases. In 2019, as introduced, AB 1486 (Ting) proposed to define “dispose of” as the “sale, **lease**, transfer, or other conveyance of any interest in real property owned by a local agency” (emphasis added).

2 | Senate Bill 34 (U m b e r g)

A broad local agency coalition opposed this proposed expansion of the meaning of “dispose of,” and consequently leases were amended out of the bill before it became law.

For the above reasons, we must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 34, unless it is amended to address our concerns.

Sincerely,



Aaron A. Avery
Senior Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



Paul A. Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District



Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District



Dennis P. Cafferty
General Manager
El Toro Water District



Robert S. Grantham
General Manager
Rancho California Water District



Fernando Paludi
General Manager
Trabuco Canyon Water District



Rob Thompson
General Manager
Orange County Sanitation District



Marl Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Jean Hurst
Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Sarah Bridge
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts

3 | Senate Bill 34 (Umberg)

CC: The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government
Hank Brady, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
William Weber, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



June 16, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: **Senate Bill 43 (Eggman): Behavioral Health
As Amended April 27, 2023 – CONCERNS
Set for Hearing June 27, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we write to express concerns with Senate Bill 43 (Eggman), which expands the definition of "gravely disabled" under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and modifies hearsay evidentiary standards for conservatorship hearings.

Counties agree with concerns expressed by the author and sponsors that too many individuals suffer without adequate and appropriate treatment and housing; we share in the urgency to bring about real change to address the needs of unhoused individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders (SUDs). Counties provide the full continuum of prevention, outpatient, intensive outpatient, crisis and inpatient, and residential mental health and SUD services, primarily to low-income Californians who receive Medi-Cal benefits or are uninsured. Counties also have responsibility for supporting and guiding individuals through the process of involuntary commitment under the LPS Act in both our county behavioral health and Public Guardian capacities.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Concerns

SB 43 expands the eligibility criteria for LPS by redefining grave disability to include individuals with an SUD-only condition (i.e., without a mental health diagnosis). Counties lack the ability to provide involuntary SUD treatment, as California has no such system of care, including no existing civil models for locked treatment settings or models of care for involuntary SUD treatment. In addition, funding for SUD treatment is limited, even under Medi-Cal; the federal and state governments provide no reimbursement for long-term residential and long-term inpatient drug treatment under Medi-Cal. The current treatment landscape doesn't address involuntary treatment for individuals with SUD. We respectfully request that SB 43 be amended to require that a substance use disorder be co-occurring with a mental health diagnosis.

Counties welcome more detailed conversations about a path forward on court-ordered SUD treatment. However, significant discussions need to occur on issues including a

The Honorable Jim Wood
Senate Bill 43 (Eggman)
June 16, 2023
Page 2

state study to: evaluate court-ordered SUD treatment models; assess the creation of a licensing structure for involuntary SUD treatment facilities; identify appropriate policy changes necessary to facilitate implementation; and understand the resources/infrastructure required to serve this new population.

Capacity and Resources

Responsibility for administering and funding the LPS system falls almost entirely on counties. Today, counties solely fund the role of the public guardian; there are no state or federal revenue streams available to support the public guardian. Existing law provides counties with substantial legal tools to conserve individuals who may be at risk to themselves or others under existing law. In the LPS system today, that demand outweighs existing resources.

Counties have wide discretion regarding the commencement of LPS conservatorship proceedings, and the availability and adequacy of care for the proposed conservatee informs the exercise of that discretion. It makes little sense to impose a conservatorship, if there is no adequate placement available for the proposed conservatee, and the conservatorship, therefore, provides no treatment benefits. It is essential that SB 43 recognizes this discretion, and the real-world constraints under which it is exercised. Counties are unable to meet the current demand for placements, and conserved individuals in rural areas are often placed hundreds of miles away from the county in which they were conserved. Without significant ongoing investment into LPS conservatorships, this bill will have little to no impact on the number of individuals conserved and will likely exacerbate the resource problem.

To truly realize an expansion of LPS, additional investments are needed for treatment, including locked facilities, workforce, housing, and step-down care options. According to a comprehensive 2021 study of the state's mental health infrastructure by the non-partisan think tank RAND, as reported by the Editorial Board in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), "California lacks space to meet demand at all three main levels of care — *acute*, highly structured, around-the-clock medically monitored inpatient care that aims to stabilize patients who can't care for themselves or risk harming themselves or others; *subacute*, inpatient care with slightly less intensive monitoring; and *community residential*, staffed non-hospital facilities that aim to help patients with lower-acuity or longer-term needs achieve interpersonal and independent living skills. Excluding state hospital beds, California is short about 2,000 acute beds and 3,000 beds each at the subacute and community residential levels, RAND estimated — though woefully inaccurate and incomplete data makes it difficult to determine the state's actual bed totals."

A build-out of delivery networks to support this significant policy change will take years, with new, sustained and dedicated state resources, above and beyond the one-time investments already made by the state through recent initiatives such as the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP). While an unprecedented level of investment has been made across the continuum through BHCIP, funding is in the early stages of deployment, and we are still years away from seeing the results of this investment.

The Honorable Jim Wood
Senate Bill 43 (Eggman)
June 16, 2023
Page 3

These challenges sit on top of the most intense behavioral health workforce crisis our state has experienced, and at a time when state initiatives are attempting to significantly expand services – through initiatives such as the Medi-Cal mobile crisis services benefit, diversion from jails and state hospitals, CARE Court, and expanded services in schools and primary care.

For LPS expansion to be successful, additional investments including ongoing state funding for public guardians must be prioritized. SB 43 should reiterate the Legislature’s commitment to continue exploring options for the expansion of these resources to meet growing needs.

Hearsay Exception

Lastly, counties believe there is merit in SB 43's hearsay exception by enabling public guardians to provide courts with evidence of individuals' ongoing grave disability. We appreciate these changes that will ensure the court is considering the contents of the medical record and that, during conservatorship proceedings, relevant testimony regarding medical history can be considered to provide the most appropriate and timely care. However, we want to make sure that the exception appropriately balances the ability to introduce evidence with health care providers who have the appropriate level of behavioral health training and expertise.

For these reasons, RCRC, UCC and CSAC respectfully offer a position of “concerns” for SB 43. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
jonodera@counties.org
916-591-5308

The Honorable Jim Wood
Senate Bill 43 (Eggman)
June 16, 2023
Page 4

cc: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Members of the Assembly Committee on Health
Judy Babcock, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Health
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Alameda County

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair
San Diego County

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 75 (Roth) – Additional Superior Court Judgeships
As amended 3/20/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 6/20/2023 – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Maienschein:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), a coalition of 14 of the state's most populous counties, I write in support of SB 75, Senator Richard Roth's measure that would authorize 26 additional judgeships at the trial court level. This measure is set for hearing on June 20 in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

On a biennial basis, the Judicial Council of California examines workload across the 58 superior courts, determines statewide judgeship needs based on a long-established weighted caseload methodology, and then identifies which courts are to receive new judgeships based on highest need. The latest Judicial Needs Assessment published in late 2022 identifies a need for 98 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands, despite the commitment of state resources in the current budget to fully fund all previously authorized judicial positions.

Based on the 2022 needs assessment, the 26 judgeships proposed to be authorized under SB 75 would be placed in 13 different jurisdictions; of those, five are urban counties, which would receive 16 newly authorized judicial officers. The distribution of those officers in urban superior courts would, pursuant to the Judicial Needs Assessment, be as follows:

1127 11TH STREET,
SUITE 810
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916.327.7531

URBANCOUNTIES.COM

The Voice of Urban Counties: Alameda • Contra Costa • Fresno • Los Angeles • Orange •
Riverside • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San Joaquin •
San Mateo • Santa Clara • Ventura



SB 75 (Roth) – SUPPORT
March 14, 2023 – page 2

- San Bernardino – 6
- San Joaquin – 2
- Riverside – 5
- Sacramento – 1
- Fresno – 2

SB 75 builds on the Legislature and Administration's recent efforts to fully fund previously authorized judgeships and represents a considerable additional step in improving access to justice for all court users. Importantly, this measure also will help facilitate county delivery of critical court-related functions and fulfillment of core county responsibilities related to matters before the court.

For these reasons, UCC is pleased to support SB 75 and urges your most positive consideration when the measure comes before your committee. Thank you for considering the urban county perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Espinosa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Espinosa
UCC Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate



CSDA

California Special
Districts Association

Districts Stronger Together



Irvine Ranch
Water District



MesaWater
DISTRICT®



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly Committee on Local Government
1020 N St., Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 229 (Umberg) – Oppose Unless Amended [As Amended February 23, 2023]

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The statewide associations and individual local agencies listed above must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 229, unless it is amended to address our concerns discussed below.

SB 229 will amend the Surplus Land Act (SLA) to provide that if a local agency is disposing of a parcel by sale or lease, and received a notice of violation from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), pursuant to Government Code Section 54230.5, that it is in violation of the SLA with regard to the parcel, the local agency shall hold an open and public session to review and consider the substance of the notice of violation. In addition to any other applicable notice requirements, the local agency shall provide notice disclosed on the local agency's internet website, in a conspicuous public place at the offices of the local agency, and to HCD no later than 14 days before the public session at which the notice of violation will be considered. The local agency's governing body shall not take final action to ratify or approve the proposed disposal until a public session is held.

The concerns underlying our position are as follows:

1. SB 229 is a companion bill to SB 34 (Umberg), which is also pending before this committee. SB 34 would similarly require procedures for the County of Orange and cities in the County of Orange to address notices of violation from HCD, albeit different procedures. However, SB 34 would seek to impose its requirements when a notice of violation is received from HCD by a local agency in connection with a "planned sale or lease of **surplus land**." In contrast, SB 229 would impose its requirements if a notice of violation is received from HCD when a local agency "is disposing of **a parcel** by sale or lease." This is a critical and problematic distinction because SB 229 may be improperly implied to broaden HCD's authority to issue notices of violation to **any** parcel of land. Without appropriately limiting the bill's application to notices of violation in connection with sales of **surplus land**, SB 229 may significantly disrupt local agencies' planning for uses of land, including for exempt surplus land explicitly not subject to the SLA. (See Government Code Section 54222.3 "This article shall not apply to the disposal of exempt surplus land as defined in Section 54221 by an agency of the state or any local agency.")

To correct this problem, SB 229 should be amended to make clear that it applies only to sales of surplus land, as follows:

Government Code section 54230.7(a): “If a local agency is disposing of a ~~parcel~~ **surplus land** by sale ~~or lease~~ and has received a notification from the Department of Housing and Community Development....”

Government Code section 54230.7(b): “The local agency’s governing body shall not take final action to ratify or approve the proposed ~~disposal~~ **sale of surplus land** until a public session is held as required by this section.”

2. As written, the bill may create a concerning precedent for all local agencies statewide. Because SB 229 includes a reference to notices of violation from HCD in connection with a “sale **or lease**” by a local agency, the bill may establish a statutory precedent that leases are subject to the SLA. Notwithstanding guidelines developed by HCD defining “disposition of surplus land,” at this time the term “dispose” is undefined in the SLA, and prior legislative efforts to define “dispose” to include leases were unsuccessful. Removing and excluding the bill’s reference to leases would in no way compromise or otherwise impact the ability of this legislation to address a planned sale of surplus land. However, including any reference to leases in the bill would be inconsistent with the clear, established legislative intent for the meaning of disposal of surplus land that is subject to the requirements of the SLA as currently written. We therefore oppose SB 229 unless it is amended to remove its reference to leases and HCD notices of violations in connection with planned leases.

Local agencies routinely enter leases for a variety of purposes that support their work or operations and that do not relate to the purposes of the SLA. Examples include a cell tower lease, a lease to a nonprofit for office space because that nonprofit is partnering with a local government to further a governmental purpose, and a short-term lease of park space.

The clear, established intent of the Legislature is not to apply the requirements of the SLA for surplus land to leases. In 2019, as introduced, AB 1486 (Ting) proposed to define “dispose of” as the “sale, **lease**, transfer, or other conveyance of any interest in real property owned by a local agency” (emphasis added). A broad local agency coalition opposed this proposed expansion of the meaning of “dispose of,” and consequently leases were amended out of the bill before it became law.

3. Our organizations also seek amendments to the procedural requirements of SB 229, to provide reasonable flexibility to local agencies. While our organizations recognize the transparency concerns addressed by this bill, those concerns can be addressed while providing additional local agency flexibility. For example:
 - a. A public **meeting**, instead of a public session, to consider a notice of violation, provides transparency while providing flexibility to local agencies in their selection of a format consistent with the Brown Act.
 - b. Local agencies should be provided with an offramp from the requirement to hold a meeting if they elect not to proceed with a proposed disposal after receiving a notice of violation from HCD.
 - c. Not all local agencies maintain websites, and additional notice flexibility is needed.

The bill’s prescriptive requirements for holding a public session, and absence of an offramp when that public session is no longer required due to changed circumstances, will unnecessarily increase SLA compliance costs for local agencies.

For the above reasons, we must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 229, unless it is amended to address our concerns.

3 | Senate Bill 229 (Umberg)

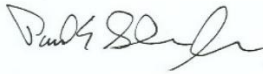
Sincerely,




Aaron A. Avery
Senior Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association



Paul A. Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District



Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District



Dennis P. Cafferty
General Manager
El Toro Water District



Robert S. Grantham
General Manager
Rancho California Water District



Fernando Paludi
General Manager
Trabuco Canyon Water District



Rob Thompson
General Manager
Orange County Sanitation District



Marl Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Jean Hurst
Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

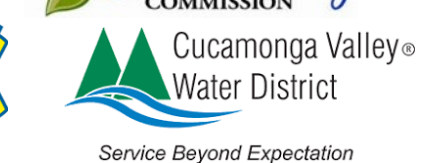
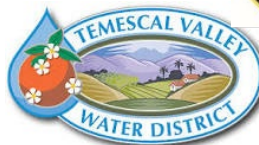


Sarah Bridge
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts

CC: The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government

4 | Senate Bill 229 (U m b e r g)

Hank Brady, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
William Weber, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus





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FLOOR ALERT*

SB 366 (Caballero) The California Water Plan: long term water supply targets SUPPORT

As water stakeholders from across the state, we urge your support for SB 366.

Let's create reliable and sufficient water supply for everyone

Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater, California needs additional supply that will provide enough water for all Californians, the environment, business and agriculture.

SB 366 will bring the fundamental changes that are necessary to ensure a sustainable water future. SB 366 will do the following:

- Transform water management in California taking us from a perpetual state of supply vulnerability to a reliable and sufficient water supply that is adequate for all beneficial uses.
- Create a new “North Star” water supply planning target for 2040 that the state will need to work toward along with a process to develop a target for 2050. This will complement and amplify Governor Newsom’s Water Supply Strategy and extend beyond any single Administration.
- Preserve the California way of life, supplying water to our homes and communities, habitat and environment, recreation and tourism, and business and economic success.
- Support economic vitality for all businesses, from restaurants to technology companies, and employers that depend on a reliable water supply.
- Fulfill the generational responsibility to develop a water system that will adapt to changes in the environment and allow the state to thrive now and for future generations.

SB 366 works within the structure of the current California Water Plan, which hasn’t been meaningfully updated for decades, and updates it for a 21st century climate. It is time to take action and set an aspirational target for California’s most precious resource, water.

VOTE “AYE” ON SB 366



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Corey Jackson, DSW, MSW
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6120
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 408 (Ashby): Child Welfare Services for Foster Youth with Complex Needs
As Amended May 18, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of SB 408 to establish programs and services to support foster youth and youth at risk of foster care with significant trauma and complex needs. This investment is needed to ensure no youth are left behind in California's continuing effort to implement Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

Counties have embraced the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), implemented through AB 403 (Stone, Ch. 773, Statutes of 2015), to reduce the use of congregate care and improve permanency and other outcomes for foster youth. CCR has resulted in profound shifts in child welfare practice and has helped to improve outcomes for many – but not all – children, youth, and families. Improvements in practices include the use of child and family teaming to ensure youth and family voice in case management and placement decisions, statewide use of the Resource Family Approval process to align and streamline licensing and approval for families, increases in foster care rates, and use of a universal child strengths and needs assessment tool. CCR resulted in significant reductions in the use of congregate care and a greater focus on supporting children and youth in family-based settings.

However, CCR was not designed to serve some of our foster youth who have experienced severe trauma and/or have complex physical, behavioral, and other needs. County child welfare agency collaborates diligently with their system partners – mental health plans, care providers, regional centers, educational agencies, etc., – to care for youth with severe trauma and/or complex care needs, but challenges remain. Higher-level treatment services are not always available at the moment they are needed, and providers are not always able to offer the intensive care needed by some youth. As a result, these youth often experience multiple placement disruptions and hospitalizations, and sometimes stay in unlicensed settings, while social workers seek other appropriate services and treatment settings. Unfortunately, this further exacerbates a youth's trauma and is likely to lead to poor outcomes.

SB 408 would establish up to ten regional health teams across the state to improve assessments and timely access to needed services (physical, mental health, substance use, etc.), perform comprehensive case management in coordination with other child-serving systems, and ensure appropriate follow-up to prevent placement disruptions with families and care coordination for youth stepping down from

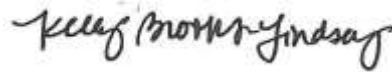
hospitals or other settings. This approach is critical to preserving families, preventing disruptions in family-based foster care, and identifying and supporting families as early as possible to reduce trauma.

SB 408 will help county child welfare agencies preserve families and improve services to our youth with significant trauma and/or complex needs. For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC support SB 408 and urge your 'AYE' vote. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby, Member, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee



June 16, 2023

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 525 (Durazo): Minimum Wage Health Care Workers
As Amended 5/25/23 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 525 by Senator Durazo.

Even with recent amendments to increase wages in consecutive years, SB 525 will still increase health care costs and county-wide wages and salaries, potentially resulting in provider closures and cutbacks – jeopardizing access to care for the most vulnerable.

SB 525 proposes to raise the health care minimum wage broadly across the health sector to \$21 per hour commencing on June 1, 2024, then raising to \$25 per hour after June 1, 2025, and increasing wages by 3.5% or by inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) every year thereafter, for employees working in county agencies – specifically, county health departments, county mental health departments, county correctional health settings, county hospitals, and county owned and operated clinics. Additionally, SB 525 requires exempt/salaried employees to be paid 1.5 times the proposed minimum wage – creating a new salary base of approximately \$78,000 per year. The measure also broadly applies the wage requirements to contractors within these facilities. Counties are estimating that the cost to implement the bill statewide across all 58 counties to be in excess of several hundreds of millions of dollars annually. When wage compression and compaction issues are factored in, the cost estimates increase exponentially. The cost estimates are discussed in more detail in the following pages.

The Immense Breadth of County Services and Impact of SB 525

County health departments are the public health experts monitoring and investigating diseases in the community, conducting testing and contact tracing, providing vaccination against disease, providing health education, inspecting restaurants, and addressing health disparities. County behavioral health departments provide mental health and substance use disorder services, primarily to California's low-income populations with serious mental illness and substance use disorders, through Medi-Cal and other programs. County health and mental health departments also prepare for and respond to natural

disasters. Twelve counties own and operate hospitals, which primarily serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries and the remaining uninsured. Those twelve counties and additional counties own and operate health clinics.

County employees are generally represented by local bargaining units and counties negotiate in good faith to set wages and benefits for employees. We work with our labor partners in a variety of settings and recognize the important work of our employees. **SB 525 would undermine the collective bargaining process by requiring counties to raise wages substantially, which will impact county operations beyond the health care field.** Counties provide a vast array of municipal services to residents beyond health and behavioral health, including roads, parks, law enforcement, emergency response services and libraries. Counties also deliver services on behalf of the state for programs such as foster care, CalWORKs, and elections. Setting an hourly wage floor for employees in the health care field will undoubtedly impact the wages of our employees and contracted services in all aspects of county government, making the mandate required by SB 525 cost counties significantly more.

1991 and 2011 Realignment Considerations

County health functions are funded by 1991 Realignment (a combination of state sales tax and vehicle license fees), as well as other state and federal funds; county mental health services are funded by a combination of 1991 and 2011 Realignment, Mental Health Services Act, as well as other state and federal funds. In years where the Realignment revenues grow slowly or decline – as they have done several years since 1991, including during the Great Recession – counties would not have funds to cover this health care minimum wage increase. In addition, counties primarily serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries and reimbursement rates have remained stagnant. The current rate structure cannot absorb the costs proposed in this bill.

Counties have a unique role in providing health care services to low-income Californians. Welfare and Institutions Code section 17000 obligates counties to serve as the provider of “last resort” for indigent Californians who have no other means of support. Because of that requirement, counties focus on serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries and uninsured Californians in their hospitals, health systems, and clinics. Counties are not in the health care business to make a profit, instead they are focused on serving individuals with the fewest means – and the payer mix of patients they care for reflects that. Counties are important state partners in the Medi-Cal program. To the extent that SB 525 will increase costs without accompanying resources, counties may scale back the services they provide, thus impacting Medi-Cal recipients, low income, and uninsured Californians.

SB 525 Fiscal Estimate

A sampling of several counties consisting of approximately 46.2 percent of California’s total population estimates a fiscal impact of approximately \$241.2 million, annually, if the minimum wage for covered health care employment and work performed on the premises of a covered health care setting is increased to \$25/hour. This aggregate estimate of the counties sampled estimates that over 15,000 employees would be impacted. It is important to note that the \$241.2 million annual estimate does not factor in other costs for employment, such as pension costs and other overhead. In addition, this estimate does not factor in other significant downstream cost pressures, such as salary compression and compaction and other impacts that reverberate beyond. When wage compression/compaction issues are factored in, the estimated impact is much higher. Extrapolated to all counties throughout the state, the \$241.20 estimated annual figure would increase exponentially and would still not include the additional cost pressures previously referenced.

Compression and Compaction Issues

If the minimum wage for covered health care employment and work performed on the premises of a covered health care setting is raised to \$21/hour and subsequently to \$25/hour, there would be compression and compaction issues, causing a major impact to counties who would have to also increase the wages for workers in other sectors and for supervisory employees. This creates significant downstream pressures on county budgets.

First, many counties have signed local labor agreements that will require them to increase wages for other workers outside of the healthcare system because of equal pay extensions. For example, if a custodian who works in a county hospital gets their wages raised to \$21/hour, then the county will also need to raise the wages of all custodians who are employed by the county to \$21/hour. Failing to do so would put the county in breach of previously agreed to labor contracts.

Second, if a supervisor is making wages at or near \$21/hour or \$25/hour minimum prior to SB 525 going into effect, there will be additional wage pressures because direct reports or non-supervisory staff wages will be outpacing salary increases for supervisory employees. If the wage difference between supervisor and non-supervisors are too small (or even at matching wages), it may reduce the incentive for employees to accept the additional responsibilities of being a supervisor/manager and can affect recruitment and retention. Addressing the wage differential will dramatically increase costs across all bargaining units.

Finally, if the minimum wage across the healthcare sector is increased to \$21/hour and then to \$25/hour, it may eliminate differences in factors such as skills, performance, seniority, or tenure between different employees with similar job classifications. For example, the wage increase could result in a new or recent hire making as much as someone that has held the same or similarly classified position for several years – whose wages have increased over time as a result of performance and merit increases, cost of living adjustments, etc., and it would disincentivize retention. To effectively retain an experienced workforce and ensure that the workforce needs of counties are being met to fill positions to support county-administered services, there would need to be consideration to increasing the wages of longstanding employees as well, given that new employees would be making the same wage as a more seasoned employee.

To address the wage compression and compaction issues, counties will likely need a compensation study to evaluate appropriate grade increases across the organization and reopen collective bargaining agreements creating new unfunded administration processes to implement SB 525. Wage increases across a bargaining unit as a result of SB 525 would far exceed the increases for just the health care worker wage minimum proposed in this measure.

SB 525 Would Create Continued Cost Pressures on County Budgets

Given that SB 525 includes an inflator of the lesser of 3.5 percent or inflation, it is unlikely that existing revenue sources available to counties will grow sufficiently to cover the wage requirements in SB 525. Additionally, SB 525 would require implementation to begin next year raising wages by \$5.50/hour from the current minimum wage of \$15.50/hour, and then increasing by \$9.50/hour on June 1, 2025. We estimate the costs to implement SB 525 for counties alone will be in the range of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. With the uncertain state of the economy and anticipated state budget deficit, SB 525 will dramatically and significantly affect county budgets at precisely the time when they are least able to afford it.

Simply put, SB 525 is not sustainable for county government and undermines the local collective bargaining process. Counties will not be able to absorb the additional wage requirements in SB 525 without curtailing services to California's most vulnerable residents or laying off staff in non-health care sectors. The overall impact will be less services provided by county government to the public – and potentially fewer public sector employees to provide that work.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC respectfully oppose SB 525.

Sincerely,



Kalyn Dean
Legislative Advocate
kdean@counties.org
CSAC



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
UCC



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
RCRC

Cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Member, California State Senate District 26
Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
Lauren Prichard, Assembly Republican Caucus, Labor and Employment Policy Consultant



FLOOR ALERT – OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 525 (DURAZO)

Clinics, Hospitals, Local Governments, Senior Care Providers, Businesses & Doctors All Oppose SB 525



SB 525 will:

- ✗ Increase health costs by \$8 billion every year.**
- ✗ Jeopardize patient access to care.**
- ✗ Disproportionately hurt disadvantaged communities.**

www.NOSB525.com



FLOOR ALERT – OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 525 (DURAZO)

Health

California Children’s Hospital Association
California Hospital Association
Association of California Healthcare Districts
California Assisted Living Association
California Primary Care Association
California Dialysis Council
CalPACE
Latinx Physicians of California
LeadingAge California
District Hospital Leadership Forum
Alliance of Catholic Health Care
ACC Senior Services
America’s Physician Groups
Barton Health
California Association for Health Services at Home
California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
California Podiatric Medical Association
California Radiological Society
California Society of Plastic Surgeons
California Rheumatology Alliance
Children’s Hospital of Orange County
Kaweah Delta Health Care District
Mayers Memorial Hospital District
Palo Verde Hospital
Pediatric Day Health Care Coalition
PIH Health
Scripps Health
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
United Hospital Association
Valley Children’s Healthcare

Senior

California Senior Advocates League

Local Government

California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California
Urban Counties of California

Education

University of California Health
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities
Southern California University of Health Sciences

Business

California Chamber of Commerce
California Retailers Association
California Medical Business Services
Orange County Business Council
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Fontana Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce
La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce and Community Association
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Pacific Association of Building Service Contractors
Greater Escondido Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
Santee Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Southwest California Legislative Council
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tri-County Chamber Alliance

Taxpayer

California Taxpayers Association



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 551 (Portantino): Mental health boards
As Amended May 1 – SUPPORT IF AMENDED
Set for Hearing June 13, 2023**

Dear Chair Wood:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we respectfully hold a “Support if Amended” position on Senate Bill 551 (Portantino). This measure would impose additional requirements on the composition of community mental health boards, which are already subject to various membership requirements.

While counties greatly appreciate the removal of the provisions related to the diversion of specific MHSA funds, the May 1st amendments impose additional requirements on the composition of community mental health boards that are already subject to various membership requirements. Specifically, SB 551 would require 20 percent of a board’s membership to be reserved for individuals employed by a local educational agency and 20 percent for individuals 25 years of age or younger in counties with a population of 500,000 or more. While counties agree that local educational agencies and youth are important voices to be represented, counties are concerned about the prescriptive nature of the amendments. We acknowledge the composition requirements adjust for county population size; however, counties are still concerned the additional requirements will present potential challenges for community mental health boards to fill and maintain these memberships.

Counties join the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) in requesting the following amendments to the bill:

Amendment to 5604 (a)(2)(D): ~~*In counties with a population of 500,000 or more, at least 20 percent of the board shall be employed by a local educational agency, and at least 20 percent of the board shall be an individual who is 25 years of age or*~~

~~younger. In counties with a population of fewer than 500,000, but more than 100,000,~~ *In counties with a population of 100,000 or more, at least one member of the board shall be employed by a local educational agency, and at least one member shall be an individual who is 25 years of age or younger. An education advocate may be substituted for either or both of these members.*

For purposes of this section, "education advocate" means a parent of a student, representative of a youth mental health organization, or retired educator or administrator.

Amendment to 5604 (f)(2): No more than 49 percent of the members of a county's mental health board may own or operate an organization or business *or be employed by a local education agency* that financially benefits from a proposed or adopted Mental Health Services Act plan.

Counties are committed to the diversity of its mental health boards to ensure representation reflects the population, demographics, and needs specific to each jurisdiction. We believe the proposed amendments honor those important goals, while also building in the flexibility counties will need to populate and maintain those boards and guard against conflicts of interests. Should you have questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate at jonordera@counties.org, Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, UCC Legislative Advocate at kbl@hbeadvocacy.com and Sarah Dukett, RCRC Legislative Advocate at sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jonordera@counties.org
916-591-5308

cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Member, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Alameda County

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair
San Diego County

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Alex Lee
Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 642 (Cortese) – Enforcement of Hazardous Waste Violations
As introduced 2/16/2023 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing on 6/20/2023 – Assembly Environmental
Safety and Toxic Materials Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Lee:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California, a 14-member coalition of the state's most populous counties, I write in support of SB 642 by Senator Dave Cortese. The bill would confer full civil enforcement authority to county counsels for hazardous waste violations.

This measure would fulfill the intention clearly articulated in current law. Health and Safety Code section 25182 provides that "[e]very civil action brought under [the Hazardous Waste Control Act] at the request of the [Department of Toxic Substances Control] or a unified program agency shall be brought by the city attorney, *the county attorney*, the district attorney, or the Attorney General in the name of the people of the State of California." SB 642 would make narrow, conforming changes to several related statutes to ensure that enforcement authority appropriately extends to county counsels along with other public prosecutors now identified in statute.

Granting county counsel the authority to prosecute hazardous waste regulatory laws would yield several important benefits. It would bring new capacity to expand enforcement of hazardous waste laws and thereby ameliorate environmental dangers as well as help address

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916.327.7531

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San Mateo • Santa Clara • Ventura



SB 642 (Cortese) – UCC Support

Page 2

chronically non-compliant violators. Several urban counties have developed specialized expertise and committed considerable resources to affirmative litigation. SB 642 would position these jurisdictions to more fully address enforcement gaps and enforce important public rights.

For these reasons, UCC is pleased to support SB 642. We thank you for your committee's most positive consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Espinosa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Espinosa

UCC Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Dave Cortese, Member of the State Senate
Members and Consultants, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Committee



FLOOR ALERT

May 30, 2023

To: Honorable Members, California State Senate

RE: **Senate Bill 747 (Caballero): Land use: economic development: surplus land
As amended May 18, 2023 – SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we write in strong support of Senate Bill 747. This bill makes important changes to the Surplus Lands Act (SLA), which strike an appropriate balance between the broad policy interests of local governments in providing a wide array of critical public services to their communities, while also ensuring that the development of affordable housing is prioritized when local governments dispose of their surplus land. SB 747 also makes numerous small but important improvements to the SLA that will ease implementation of the law and ensure that the law's processes are focused on properties most likely to be redeveloped for housing.

Counties Require Flexibility to Use Properties to Meet Long-Term Community Needs

Counties provide an incredibly broad range of services that include statewide health and human services programs, countywide public safety and environmental protections, and a full suite of municipal services for the residents of unincorporated communities. Each of these services requires physical facilities sited in appropriate locations amongst the diverse communities of every county. To effectively deliver services in the communities where they are needed and where clients live, counties must hold and acquire property for both current and planned community needs.

While counties have been leaders in redeveloping their properties to provide affordable housing opportunities, including redeveloping outdated county-owned sites,¹ joint-use developments in conjunction with new county facilities,² and countywide efforts to identify properties appropriate for affordable housing development,³ just to name a few examples, excessively restrictive prohibitions on the leasing of county-owned properties under current Department of Housing and Community Development SLA guidelines are counterproductive. A five-year limitation on leases of properties that may currently be underutilized, but which are integral to the future provision of vital community

¹ <https://www.dailydemocrat.com/2018/12/11/affordable-housing-complex-officially-opens-tuesday/>

² https://www.huduser.gov/portal/casestudies/study_100520.html

³ <https://www.countynewscenter.com/county-breaks-ground-for-first-affordable-housing-development-on-surplus-property/>

services, does not encourage redevelopment for housing, but merely impedes worthwhile, temporary uses of public property.

SB 747's provisions related to the lease of local government property provides a bright-line standard for when a long-term lease of a property should be considered a disposition and subject to the SLA's requirements to give housing providers a first opportunity to negotiate acquisition of the property. SB 747 is appropriately calibrated to ensure that properties needed in the future can be leased by the local government for a reasonable term to facilitate interim uses that benefit local communities.

Improves Surplus Lands Act Procedures and Applicability

SB 747 includes numerous incremental changes to the SLA that will improve administration at the local level and ensure that the process is focused on the disposition of properties that are most likely to be suitable and available for housing. The bill exempts local agencies that are disposing property, or entering negotiations with, the developer of a qualifying affordable housing project from notification requirements and broadens the current exemption for mixed-use developments with at least 25% affordable housing; requires improved public transparency when HCD notifies a jurisdiction of a potential SLA violation; and exempts properties with valid legal restrictions, including conservation easements, while ensuring transparency during the disposal process.

The bill also reasonably expands the definition of agency use to include numerous important functions that county-affiliated districts may undertake, including airport-related uses, transit and transit-oriented development, port properties to support logistics uses, broadband and wireless facilities, and buffer zones near waste disposal sites.

For the reasons stated above, our organizations strongly support SB 747. If you need additional information about our position, please contact Jean Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com, Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at trhine@rcrcnet.org or Mark Neuburger (CSAC) at mneuburger@counties.org.



Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Dan Terre 11

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: 6-27-24 Agenda # Items 2.4

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda/Public Comment:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, a member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. Donated time is not permitted during Public Comment.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin to flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman, may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.



Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Roy BUCKWORT

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 2.4

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

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Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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