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

ITEM: 2.2
(ID # 29148)
MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Legislative Report for October 2025, [All Districts] [$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Legislative Report for November 2025.

ACTION:Policy

Carolina Salazar Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy 11/13/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes:	Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Date:	November 18, 2025
xc:	EO

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: _____
Deputy

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:

Legislative Report (November 2025)
CSAC Letters (November 2025)
UCC Letters (November 2025)

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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 the 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 Legislative Report is intended 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.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

- RivCo met with Assembly Member Natasha Johnson on October 16, 2025, to update her on the latest countywide priorities.
- State Treasurer Fiona Ma toured RUHS Medical Center, Harmony Haven, and the Ben Clark Training Center on October 28, 2025.

Lobby Days

- County Leaders were in Sacramento and Washington, DC, advocating county priorities with the following associations:
    - Housing Workforce Solutions attended the Annual National Youth Employment Coalition Youth Days, November 5-7, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

2024 End of Session Report

The California State Legislature introduced just over 2,800 bills during the 2025 legislative session. Approximately 1,100 of those were designated as "two-year" bills and remain eligible for further consideration in 2026. Just over 1,200 bills advanced to Governor Newsom's desk. Of those, the Governor signed 1,124 and vetoed 123. This report includes updates on new laws that were signed by the Governor, as well as the status of bills that were of interest to the County but failed passage. The advocacy strategy and impact are highlighted where appropriate.

Signed by Governor

The following bills were signed by the Governor. Unless otherwise noted, bills will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

- **AB 1 (Connolly-D) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.** This bill would require the California Department of Insurance to periodically review and update wildfire risk mitigation regulations, incorporating public input and consulting with state agencies, while

emphasizing the use of noncombustible materials and maintaining a structured process for regulatory amendments.
Position: Support [Per Board Item 3.27 on April 15, 2025.]
Impact: This bill is intended to protect homes and bring down insurance rates, in keeping with the Board of Supervisor's priorities.

- **AB 339 (Ortega-D) Local Public employee organizations: notice requirements.** This bill would require counties to give the recognized employee organization no less than 120 days' written notice (and opportunity to request a meet-and-confer) before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization.
  Position: Oppose
  Impact: AB 339 will significantly impede our county's ability to work with private, non-profit, and community-based organizations, by imposing onerous obligations and costs on local contracts. County departments are analyzing implementation needs.
- **AB 478 (Zbur-D) Accessibility to emergency information and services: evacuations: pets.** Enhances the protection and rescue of pets during emergency evacuations. The bill requires that, upon the next update of a city's or county's emergency plan, local governments must include specific procedures for the rescue of pets from areas under evacuation orders, subject to approval by the incident commander and emergency management authority.
  Position: Watch
- **AB 516 (Kalra-D) Registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants: scope of practice.** Would expand the scope of practice for registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants, allowing them to perform additional animal health care services under veterinary supervision, including dental procedures and treatments for animals in shelters and humane societies.
  Position: Support
- **AB 538 (Berman-D) Public works: payroll records.** Would require a public agency to obtain Certified Payroll Records from contractors upon request by a member of the public, despite the State Department of Industrial Relations being the enforcing agency with existing authorization to demand those records, without providing state funding.
  Position: Oppose
- **AB 571 (Sharon Quirk-Silva-D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.** Would expedite the approval process for the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery in Orange County, ensuring the timely creation of this vital resource while balancing community needs and responsible governance.
  Position: Support
- **AB 607 (Rodriguez-D) CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program.** This bill updates the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program to ensure families in voluntary, evidence-based programs can fully participate and receive all intended benefits.
  Position: Support
- **AB 1108 (Hart-D) County officers: coroners: in-custody deaths.** Prohibits a county that has a combined Sheriff-Coroner office from conducting cause of death determinations for in-custody deaths and would instead require that it be referred to an independent county coroner, a medical examiner, or a third-party provider for medical examination services.
  Position: Watch

- **AB 1269 (Bryan-D) County and city jails: incarcerated person contacts.** Requires county and city jails to notify all individuals included on medical release of information and next of kin forms within 24-hours of a death of an incarcerated individual. Existing law requires state prisons to follow the same notification procedure; this aligns city and county jails with state practice.
  Position: Watch
- **AB 1288 (Addis-D) Registered environmental health specialists.** Would amend the Health and Safety Code to revise educational and examination requirements for environmental health specialists, extend trainee supervision, expand practice scope, and enhance public access to specialist registries.
  Position: Support
- **AB 1293 (Wallis-R) Workers' compensation: qualified medical evaluators.** This measure will help improve workers' compensation disputes by improving the quality of qualified medical evaluator panels. These panels are vital to providing objective medical reports on a workers' compensation dispute.
  Position: Support
- **ACR 37 (Wallis-R) The Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Captain Tim Rodriguez, and Pilot Tony Sousa Memorial Highway.** Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Captain Tim Rodriguez, and Pilot Tony Sousa tragically passed while they were working tirelessly to keep our communities safe during the Broadway Wildland Fire in 2023. This resolution would rename a portion of I-10 through Cabazon in their memory.
  Position: Support
  Impact: This highway would serve as a reminder of their valor, etched into the roads we travel, so that their memory and sacrifice will never be forgotten.
- **SB 27 (Umberg-D) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.** This bill makes several changes to the existing Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program, including but not limited to referrals and eligibility criteria. Importantly, it authorizes a misdemeanor defendant deemed incompetent to stand trial to be referred to diversion or to the CARE Act court, if eligible. It also expands eligibility criteria from solely applying to the *schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders* under current law to also now include *bipolar I disorder with psychotic features*, except psychosis related to current intoxication.
  Position: Watch
- **SB 72 (Cabellero-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 November 1, 2022.]
  Impact: This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets.
- **SB 346 (Durazo-D) Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator.** This bill would authorize a county to require a short-term rental facilitator to report the physical address, including a 9-digit ZIP Code of each short-term rental within its jurisdiction.
  Position: Support
  Impact: The bill would assist the county's ability to collect transient occupancy taxes from short-term rentals.

- **SB 413 (Allen-D) Juveniles: case file inspection.** This bill would expedite access to relevant juvenile case records for both local agencies and plaintiffs with claims against local agencies. While still maintaining confidentiality protections.
  Position: Support
  Impact: SB 413 would improve existing procedures for resolving claims against local agencies for both plaintiffs and defendants by saving both counties and child litigants suing counties time and money.
- **SB 415 (Reyes- D) Planning and zoning: logistics use: truck routes.** This bill updates zoning and planning regulations for logistics use developments, refining the truck route circulation element requirements required in AB 98 (2024).
  Position: Support
  Impact: RivCo was mandated to comply with these regulations by 2026. Amendments we supported allow counties to make a good faith effort towards meeting the circulation element requirements.
- **SB 487 (Grayson-D)** This bill will provide that police and firefighters employed by local agencies who are injured by a third party are entitled to recover at least two-thirds of the amount owed by the third party in a civil claim. Effectively, the bill would limit the amounts counties and other public agencies could recover from third-party settlements or judgements to account for the cost of workers' compensation claims. This bill was amended to exclude state police officers and firefighters from these provisions.
  Position: Oppose
- **SB 707 (Durazo-D) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.** The bill extends remote meeting flexibilities, adds new options for multi-jurisdictional and advisory bodies, and addresses recruitment challenges by allowing remote participation. While it introduces new requirements, recent amendments provide legal protections, cost-effective tools, and administrative flexibility to ease implementation.
  Position: Watch

Vetoed by Governor

- **AB 1430 (Bennett-D) County recorders: fees.** Would increase recording fees from $10 to $15 for the first page and $3 to $4 for additional pages, while raising the document system maintenance allocation from $1 to $3 per additional page to support modernization and efficient public service.
  Position: Support.
  Veto Message: The Governor indicated concerns with attaching additional fees to homeownership and encouraged other types of innovation.
  Impact: According to the Riverside County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder's Office, AB 1430 strengthens the financial sustainability of County Recorders' offices, ensuring that the cost of services is fairly aligned with those who use them rather than being subsidized by the general public
- **SB 7 (McNerney-D) Employment: automated decision systems**. Would establish new requirements for transparency, with overly broad definitions for automated decision systems in employment.
  Position: Oppose
  Veto Message: The Governor shared the County's concerns that the bill was too broad.

- **SB 369 (Padilla-D) Salton Sea: restoration projects: skilled and trained workforce.** Would mandate the use of a skilled and trained workforce for Salton Sea restoration projects starting January 1, 2026, to improve local economic conditions and project quality, with exceptions for projects under specific labor agreements.
  Position: Support
- **SB 485 (Reyes-D) County public defender: appointment.** Limits removal of Public Defenders to a 3/5 Board vote for cause, reducing accountability compared to other department heads; Riverside County and CSAC propose aligning terms with County Counsel.
  Position: Oppose unless amended

Failed Passage/2 Year Bills

- **AB 53 (Ramos-D) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.** Would provide tax exclusions for up to $20,000 of retirement and annuity payments for qualified military personnel and their families, aiming to honor their service and support their financial stability.
  Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.3 on April 15, 2025.]
  Status: Tax exclusions for veteran pensions were incorporated into the State Budget Bill.
- **AB 691 (Wallis-R) Personal Income Tax Law: credits: pet adoption and medical expenses.** Would provide tax credits for pet adoption and medical expenses, allowing taxpayers to claim up to $250 for adoption fees and up to $500 for veterinary care within the first year of adoption.
  Position: Support
  Status: Held under submission in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 690 (Schultz-D) Criminal procedure: indigent defense compensation.** Would impose new standards and costly mandates on counties for indigent defense services, eliminating flat fee compensation models without providing additional state funding.
  Position: Oppose [Per attached]
  Status: Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 735 (Carillo-D) Planning and zoning: logistics use: truck routes.** This bill updates zoning and planning regulations for logistics use developments, refining the truck route circulation element requirements required in AB 98 (2024).
  Position: Support
  Status: AB 735 efforts were merged into SB 415, which passed and was signed by Governor.
  Impact: RivCo was mandated to comply with these regulations by 2026. Amendments we supported allow counties to make a good faith effort towards meeting the circulation element requirements.
- **AB 793 (Schultz-D) Potentially dangerous and vicious dogs: designation and disposition: burden of proof.** Would have strengthened due process protections for dogs in California by raising evidentiary standards, requiring explicit findings regarding provocation, and ensuring uniform statewide procedures before a dog can be declared dangerous or euthanized for public safety reasons.
  Position: Oppose Unless Amended
  Status: Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee.

- **AB 871 (Stefani-D) Mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult.** Would require financial institutions to train mandated reporters annually on identifying and reporting elder financial abuse, immediately share reporting mechanisms with clients, and encourage complaint submissions within 24 to 48 hours.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill
  Impact: In 2024, RivCo handled 20,784 Adult Protective Services cases, with 29% involving suspected financial abuse. This bill would enhance efforts to stop criminals, streamline reporting for financial institutions, and improve recovery of stolen funds.
- **AB 882 (Papan-D) Electronic court reporting.** Would temporarily allow California courts to use electronic recording for civil proceedings when low-income litigants request a verbatim record and court reporters are unavailable.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **AB 1016 (Gonzalez-R) Power facility and site certifications: thermal powerplants: geothermal resources.** Would allow certain geothermal powerplants to be exempt from certification requirements until 2030, provided they meet specific criteria, with local agencies overseeing environmental reviews and ensuring skilled workforce compliance.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **AB 1031 (Gonzalez-R) Hazardous waste control laws: exemption: geothermal resources.** Would limit the generation and handling fee for geothermal waste that is not exempt from hazardous waste control laws to a maximum of $10 per ton.
  Position: Support
  Status: Held under submission in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 1145 (Gonzalez-R) State highways: safety: State Highway Route 74: report.** Would mandate a detailed safety study and recommendations for State Highway Route 74, focusing on accident data, enforcement facility bypassing, and road safety improvements.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **AB 1313 (Papan-D) Water quality: permits.** Would require the California State Water Resources Control Board create a statewide NPDES permit for large commercial, industrial, and institutional properties to address stormwater pollution, with multiple compliance options and a public comment period, in response to evidence that such sites significantly contribute to water quality impairments.
  Position: Oppose
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **AB 1331 (Elhawary-D) Workplace surveillance.** This bill restricts employer use of workplace surveillance tools in certain areas, grants workers privacy rights, establishes penalties for violations, and provides enforcement and anti-retaliation protections. CSAC and a large coalition of government agencies have asked that public employers with labor agreements be exempted from these rules, but that request has been rejected.
  Position: Oppose [Per attached]
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **AB 1337 (Ward-D) Information Practices Act of 1977.** This bill would expand data rules for public agencies, increase county liability and costs, threatens RivCoOne, and denies reimbursement for the new mandate.

Position: Oppose [Per attached]
Status: Failed passage in Senate Judiciary but granted reconsideration. Two Year Bill.

- **AB 1358 (Valencia-D) Santa Ana River Conservancy Program: lower Santa Ana River region.** Would mandate that 60% of funds for Santa Ana River Conservancy projects be allocated to urbanized areas in the Lower Santa Ana River Region to aid disadvantaged communities.
  Position: Oppose
  Impact: This bill would take away Proposition 4 funds that RivCo Parks advocated for.
  Status: Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **SB 1 (Seyarto-R) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.** SB 1 would exclude two forms of military retirement income from state income tax.
  Position: Support
  Impact: SB 1 is a commonsense measure that aligns California with the majority of states that have already recognized the importance of this exemption for Veterans and surviving spouses.
  Status: Tax exclusions for veteran pensions were incorporated into the State Budget Bill.
- **SB 239 (Arreguin-D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.** Would authorize members of local non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in public meetings via two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their location.
  Position: Support
  Impact: Would allow virtual participation on County appointed advisory boards and commissions, removing barriers for participation.
  Status: Language we supported in SB 239 was incorporated into SB 707, which was signed into law.
- **SB 496 (Hurtado-D) Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions.** Would establish the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Appeals Advisory Committee, ensuring transparent review of exemption requests for transitioning government and high-priority truck fleets to zero-emission vehicles while expanding emergency vehicle exemptions.
  Position: Support
  Status: Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **SB 534 (Padilla-D) Green Empowerment Zone for the Salton Sea and Southeastern Desert Valleys.** Would establish a Green Empowerment Zone for the Salton Sea and Southeastern Desert Valleys to promote economic development and clean energy transition in historically underserved areas, with governance by a diverse board and annual reporting requirements.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **SB 577 (Laird-D) Government.** AB 218 Clean-up. Would revise procedures and standards for civil actions against public entities, particularly in childhood sexual assault cases, tightens filing requirements and timelines, and modifies rules for public agency liability and debt repayment.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill

- **SB 601 (Allen-D) Water: waste discharge.** Expands California water rules to cover unprotected 'nexus waters,' strengthen standards, boost enforcement, and ensure ongoing oversight. Potentially significant costs to counties.
  Position: Oppose
  Status: Two Year Bill
- **SB 694 (Archuleta-D) Deceptive practices: service members and veterans.** Would strengthen veteran protections by banning unaccredited VA claims fees, enhancing consumer safeguards, and securing logins.
  Position: Support
  Status: Two Year Bill

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

- **HR 471 Westerman (R-AR-4) Fix Our Forests Act.** Would enhance forest management and reduce wildfire risks through interagency coordination, expedited processes, and innovative strategies, while also addressing vegetation management, reforestation, and technology deployment, with a focus on collaboration across federal, state, and tribal entities.
  Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.27 on May 8, 2025]
  Impact: Reducing the National Environmental Policy Act barriers could add value to forest fuel management and abatement in areas that back up to private homes and property. This legislation would also assist in issues like the checkerboard pattern of public/private land ownership currently impeding the construction of a uniform fire break along the western edge of the Cleveland National Forest.
- **HR 1225 Calvert (R-CA-41) To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.** Would direct the U.S. Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.
  Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on February 7, 2023]
- **HR 4038 Kim (R-CA-40) Wildfire Response and Preparedness Act of 2025.** Would require federal agencies to set and report on standardized, expedited wildfire response times and resource needs, aiming to improve coordination and effectiveness in federal wildfire management.
  Position: Support

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1	**Jose Medina** 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

October 3, 2025

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

RE: Assembly Bill 516 (Kalra) – Registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants: scope of practice
Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors in the County of Riverside, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 516, Assembly Member Ash Kalra's measure that clarifies that registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) and veterinary assistants can carry out any task that they are not otherwise forbidden from performing under current law or regulation.

As you are aware, there is a pet overpopulation crisis in California. This is straining all our county-run animal shelters, which is only exacerbated by a severe shortage of veterinarians available to perform spay, neuter, and essential animal care services. AB 516 is a crucial step toward improving the scope of practice for RVTs and veterinary assistants in California.

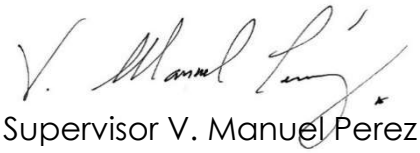
By clarifying the responsibilities of these professionals, ensuring they can provide essential care under the supervision of licensed veterinarians, this change not only enhances efficiency within veterinary practices but also helps address the growing demand for accessible animal healthcare. This bill ensures that qualified professionals can utilize their skills to the fullest extent. By empowering these individuals, the bill fosters a more sustainable and responsive veterinary workforce, ultimately benefiting both practitioners and the animals they serve.

The County of Riverside's Department of Animal Services (DAS) has made great strides and developed innovative solutions to combat the overpopulation crisis;

this includes hosting wellness clinics in unincorporated, underserved, high-stray communities to increase community access to veterinary care; adding shelter space and a new spay/neuter surgery suite; and increasing permanent veterinarian staffing to specifically support spay and neuter surgeries. While we have achieved significant progress, our goal is to reach a 90% live release rate. This will not be possible if we do not increase the availability of veterinary services.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports AB 516 and respectfully requests your signature when the 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.

Respectfully,



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Ash Kalra, Member of the Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

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October 3, 2025

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

Re: Assembly Bill 1430 (Bennett) – County recorders: fees
Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 1430, by Assembly Member Steve Bennett. This measure updates and modernizes the statutory fees for county recorders' services. Across the state, county recorders provide important public services and serve as the custodians of vital records, recorded land documents, and other legal documents that support the integrity of property ownership and other legal transactions.

County recorders' offices operate on a fee-for-service basis; however, their fees are outlined in statute with maximum amounts that were set in 2009. The current fee structure does not account for cost increases and changes in real estate transactions, resulting in some county recorders requiring additional county general fund resources to maintain operations.

AB 1430 represents a necessary step toward addressing structural funding issues that have impacted County Recorder's Offices for more than a decade. By updating outdated recording fee structures and ensuring that all new revenue is reinvested directly into Recorder operations, the bill gives departments the ability to better support staffing, technology, and service delivery without relying on unstable external funding sources.

Specifically, AB 1430 increases the base recording fee from $10 to $15 for the first page and from $3 to $4 for additional pages, better aligning fees with the cost of delivering services. It also raises the document system maintenance allocation from $1 to $3 per additional page, providing essential support for modernization efforts and more efficient public service.

Finally, by removing the 2026 sunset date on preservation-related fees, the bill ensures uninterrupted funding for protecting and restoring historical records. Together, these changes offer a realistic path toward stronger, more sustainable operations. Further, AB 1430 requires that the fees collected are dedicated to, and solely utilized for, the county recorder's office, and prohibits the fees from exceeding the reasonable costs of the document recording function.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports AB 1430 and respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, 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.

Respectfully,



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Steve Bennett, Member of the Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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August 22, 2025

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
California State Senate, District 31
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 280 (Cervantes) Elections
As Amended August 18, 2025

Dear Senator Cervantes:

On Behalf of the County of Riverside, we stand with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), in supporting the inclusion of advance funding for counties to administer the November 4, 2025 statewide special election.

Timely financial support is critical to ensure the smooth and effective administration of elections, which is why we were encouraged to see that your bill includes upfront funding to offset the costs of conducting the special election. Unlike regularly scheduled elections, where expenses are shared among cities, school districts, and special districts, the financial burden of a special election rests almost entirely on counties. This creates a significant unfunded mandate at a time when we are already navigating tight budgetary constraints. The inclusion of early funding not only alleviates this pressure but also safeguards the integrity and accessibility of the electoral process.

Your bill allocates funds from the state's general fund to cover the actual and reasonably necessary costs of administering the special election. These funds will be distributed directly to counties. We estimate the cost of this election to our county alone will be $16 million, an expense that would otherwise have been drawn from our own general fund. By receiving state support, we can avoid diverting local resources away from essential health and human services that our residents rely on.

We appreciate your leadership in drafting the bill to include these funds. 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 V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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October 3, 2025

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

Re: SB 346 (Durazo) - Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator
Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 346, by Senator Maria Elena Durazo. This measure would significantly strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with obligatory local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals (STRs).

Current statute does not reflect the evolution of the internet's use to facilitate STRs, and some platform operators have continuously avoided reporting the locations of their listed STRs. At best, platform operators have selectively agreed to Voluntary Collection Agreements (VCA) with some local taxing authorities, but a consistent requirement of those agreements is that local taxing authorities will not be able to receive the address or any personally identifying information for the listed properties. This leaves counties and cities in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes through this process and trusting that is accurate and lawfully collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is time- and cost-intensive due to the sheer volume of listings in some jurisdictions and often further complicated by deliberately vague descriptions of the properties' location.

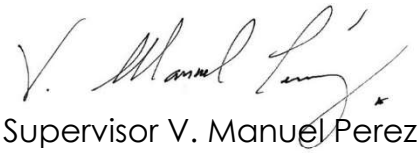
It is challenging for local agencies to enforce local laws on these operators. Only through continual court action, such as a subpoena, could a county tax

collector force platform operators to provide critical information. This is inefficient and burdensome. By authorizing a local agency to require a short-term rental facilitator to report, in the form and manner prescribed by the local agency, specified physical address and location information about the property, SB 346 will increase TOT compliance. This legislation is vitally needed to modernize California statute and provide the tools necessary to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies.

The County of Riverside has been through several rounds of ordinances regarding the regulation and licensing of STRs, and our residents have the expectation that STRs will pay what is required to operate in our communities. SB 346 will help us fulfill that obligation.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports SB 346 and respectfully requests your signature on this important measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, 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.

Respectfully,



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	**Jose Medina** 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

October 3, 2025

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

Re: Senate Bill 369 (SB 369) – Padilla
Salton Sea: restoration projects: skilled and trained workforce.
Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 369 by Senator Steve Padilla. This measure would introduce a new requirement for state agencies involved in Salton Sea restoration projects to ensure the use of a skilled and trained workforce.

Our County is committed to fostering a thriving, robust, and diverse economy. The Salton Sea's restoration is essential to both environmental health and community well-being in the Imperial Valley. Climate-related challenges have affected the lake, impacting air quality and local workers, many of whom are Latino agricultural laborers. While funding supports restoration efforts, broader economic opportunities are needed. SB 369 ensures that a skilled local workforce is prioritized, strengthening both job prospects and the rapid progress of restoration efforts.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports SB 369. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Maggy Krell
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5230
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 416 (Krell): Involuntary Commitment
As Amended July 17, 2025 – REMOVAL OF OPPOSITION

Dear Assembly Member Krell:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservators (CAPAPGPC), we are writing to share that we are removing our opposition to your Assembly Bill 416. Our associations are appreciative of the amendments taken on July 17 that address county concerns.

In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act was enacted to create a legal framework for due process when an individual is involuntarily detained due to the determination that they are a danger to themselves, others, or gravely disabled. As a part of this due process, individuals have a right to prompt psychiatric evaluation and treatment at a designated facility authorized by the county to provide behavioral health services under LPS. Section 5150(a) of the LPS Act allows certain individuals to detain a person against their will if they believe a person presents harms to themselves, others or is gravely disabled.

The amendments taken to AB 416 on July 17 clarify that emergency physicians are included as one of the practice disciplines eligible to be designated by a county when developing and implementing procedures for who will be designated to perform functions under Section 5150. The July 17 amendments also clarify that the bill does not affect the revocation process that applies to all professionals who are eligible to be designated by the county to perform functions under Section 5150.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and CAPAPGPC are pleased to remove our opposition to AB 416. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



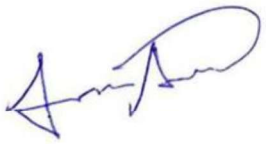
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Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
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UCC
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Tom Scott
Executive Director
CAPAPGPC
tscott@capapgpc.org
916-382-4703

cc: Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee

California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101 | Sacramento, CA 95814

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 616 (Caloza): California State Library Parks Pass Program**
As Amended May 23, 2025 – Support
To be considered on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, we write in support of Assembly Bill 616 (Caloza). This bill would provide free vehicle day use passes to the California State Library, via the Department of Parks and Recreation, upon appropriation by the legislature.

Library directors and staff regularly report that the State Library Parks Pass is one of the most popular programs available to patrons at the public library. The "Outdoors Access For All" initiative, conducted in partnership with First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, allows library card holders free access to 200 state parks participating in the program. For many low-income residents, the free passes provide the incentive to visit a park that they may not otherwise afford due to entrance fees.

The State's Budget Bill Jr., AB 102 (Gabriel), includes funding that ensures the continuity of this program, allowing Californians to enjoy our beautiful parks at no cost. CSAC is proud to support efforts that provide funding for the development of access to parks. Californians, regardless of economic status, deserve to have equal access to our state's parks, public campgrounds, monument sites, landmark sites, and sites of historical interest. In addition, AB 616 would encourage passholders to travel to some of the state's overlooked rural state parks, stimulating tourism and economic growth in rural communities. These rural areas, often considered hidden gems, stand to benefit from increased tourism and investment.

Through the existing appropriation, the California State Library will continue its role in supporting outdoor recreation and social equity across communities, as envisioned in AB 616. By providing these passes to local libraries, Californians will

have yet another reason to engage with their community library. For these reasons, CSAC is pleased to support AB 616 and respectfully requests your AYE vote on this measure. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at elawyer@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate, CSAC

cc: The Honorable Jessica M. Caloza, Member, California State Assembly
Committee Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee
Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Todd Moffitt, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

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Graham Knaus

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August 20, 2025

The Honorable Chistopher Cabaldon, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4
1020 N Street, Suite 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Homelessness Trailer Bill Language

Dear Chair Cabaldon and Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your steadfast commitment and leadership to address our state's homelessness crisis. On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I am writing to share recommendations related to a potential homelessness budget trailer bill.

There are two critical elements that are needed in this legislation in order to sustain and build upon the progress we are collectively achieving in reducing homelessness in California.

1. Distribute the $500 million for Round 7 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program as quickly as possible in the 2026-27 budget year with minimal administrative barriers.
2. Take initial steps to establish a comprehensive homelessness response system, which includes clearly defined roles for all levels of government (state, counties, and cities), accountability, and funding.

Both elements are especially important given the challenges over the coming year with no funding for the HHAP program in this year's budget, drastic cuts at the federal level to safety net programs that counties administer, and significant cuts and threats to federal housing and homelessness funding.

HHAP Round 7 Implementing Language

CSAC recently joined a coalition letter outlining priorities for trailer bill language that would implement Round 7 of the HHAP program. Consistent with those key principles, it is vital

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2nd Vice President Luis Alejo, Monterey County
Past President Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County
CEO Graham Knaus

that the $500 million provided for Round 7 as outlined by SB 131 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025) be distributed in a manner that allows for homelessness and housing services to be minimally disrupted and maintained to the maximum extent possible. The funding for HHAP Round 7 should be distributed within 60 days of enactment of the 2026 Budget Act. Further, the applications should be kept simple with no requirements added beyond what is required in statute unlike what occurred with Round 6 applications. Finally, there must be pathways established for counties to show progress on meeting the new requirements outlined in SB 131 to ensure there are no delays in this funding being distributed.

Defined Roles and Responsibilities

Earlier this year, CSAC unveiled the AT HOME Pilot Program which addresses the two fundamental barriers to making further progress on homelessness – (1) the lack of clearly defined responsibilities for each level of government (state, county, city) and (2) the state's unreliable, one-year-at-a-time funding approach. For a potential homelessness trailer bill, CSAC proposes establishing a process that would lead to the development of recommendations for the creation of a comprehensive homelessness system in our state. This system would include clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all levels of government, accountability, and sufficient and ongoing funding. The process should involve key stakeholders from the state, counties, cities, continuums of care, individuals with lived experience, and other partners. CSAC looks forward to engaging on how best to structure such a process within consideration of existing resources and existing entities, such as the California Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. It's critical that homelessness legislation advances progress on what is needed to truly change the tide in our state's struggle. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or jgarrett@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee Committee No. 4
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee Committee No. 5
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

Tim Griffiths, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Genevieve Morelos, Assembly Budget Committee
Chantele Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Brent Finkel, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Misa Lennox, Office of the Senate President Pro Tem
Katie Kolitsos, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Gustavo Velasquez, Director, Housing and Community Development Department
Meghan Marshall, Executive Officer, California Interagency Council on Homelessness
Myles White, Office of Governor Newsom
Teresa Calvert, Department of Finance

August 15, 2025

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

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire
1021 O Street, Ste. 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Ste. 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Chair Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Ste. 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel
1021 O Street, Ste. 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Subcommittee 4 Chair
Chris Cabaldon
1021 O Street, Ste. 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5 Chair
Sharon Quirk-Silva
1021 O Street, Ste. 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program Round 7 Trailer Bill Language

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore McGuire, Assembly Speaker Rivas, Senate Budget Chair Wiener, Assembly Budget Chair Gabriel, Senate Sub 4 Chair Cabaldon, and Assembly Sub 5 Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your continued leadership of our collective efforts to reduce homelessness in California. Our organizations are committed to ensuring that the Round 7 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, established in SB 131 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025), can effectively combat the homelessness crisis. While we continue to believe that ongoing HHAP funding of at least $1 billion per year is needed to sustain the progress we have made in housing and serving more Californians than ever before, we are eager to partner on the implementation of the $500 million for a Round 7 of HHAP so that this funding can go out as quickly as possible to meet critical homelessness funding priorities. To that end, we are writing to share our recommendations for implementing trailer bill language.

SB 131 established a Round 7 of the HHAP program while outlining intent to pass future trailer bill language to implement that funding. The implementation would contain additional prerequisites to Round 7 funding, including substantial completion of disbursement of Round 6 funding by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). SB 131 further requires trailer bill language to impose additional requirements on applicants of Round 7 funding. These provisions would require the applicant to have achieved the following to secure Round 7 funds:

- Obligation of at least 50% of their Round 6 award,
- Having a compliant housing element,
- Enacting a local encampment policy consistent with administration guidance,
- Receiving a designation of "pro-housing,"
- Leveraging local resources to scale state investments,
- Demonstrating progress on key housing performance metrics, and
- Demonstrating urgency and measurable results in housing and homelessness prevention.

In drafting legislation to incorporate the provisions of SB 131, we recommend adhering to the following principles:

(1) Avoid a funding gap and ensure that Round 7 funding is distributed early in the 2026-27 budget year. Many of the expenses HHAP funds, like rental assistance, services, and interim and permanent housing operating costs, require an ongoing commitment of funds. Due to the one-time nature of each HHAP round, where 50% of each round follows a protracted application process, grantees struggle to plan for HHAP funds, knowing future HHAP rounds (or even the next 50% tranche) may be significantly delayed or not materialize. For example, the Governor and Legislature appropriated HHAP Round 6 on June 30, 2024, but grantees do not expect to receive their first 50% disbursement until 2026, potentially two years later. HHAP grantees take risks in committing funding to subgrantees with little certainty of when the state will allocate HHAP dollars. Without a reliable, quicker HHAP Round 7 disbursement, many local jurisdictions will ramp down HHAP-funded services, impacting service provider staffing and disrupting each region's rehousing systems, at a time of great budget and political uncertainty. To achieve a goal of quicker disbursement, we recommend HCD release the HHAP Round 7 application early in 2026 and begin disbursement by September 2026.

(2) Distribute the entire grant in one tranche of funding for Round 7. Issuing the full Round 7 allocation in one tranche will give grantees the certainty needed to commit funds fully to ongoing contracts, avoid service reductions, and prevent the administrative and operational disruptions that occur when funding is delayed or distributed in partial payments.

(3) Promote accountability without adding onerous application requirements. We propose allowing applicants to revise and update their Round 6 applications, given applicants will have submitted lengthy, complicated applications for Round 6 less than a year before. This process would maintain accountability while reducing the lengthy application process (which currently takes six

months). It would ensure funds are deployed more quickly and prevent uncertainty and gaps in funding.

(4) Allow applicants the opportunity to secure Round 7 funds while substantially complying with the intent of SB 131. Some of the new requirements require lengthy actions by applicants and lengthy approval processes by the state. For example, many applicants would not be able to feasibly obtain pro-housing designation between the period of trailer bill passage and the application deadline. Because this requirement is new and applicants could not have anticipated having to comply with a designation largely focused on housing production, bogging down grantees in complexity and delaying applications will fail to improve HHAP outcomes and may worsen outcomes for Californians experiencing homelessness. An approach that enacts these new conditions in a manner that allows a grantee to demonstrate they are on the path toward meeting them will still achieve accountability while avoiding further delays in funding.

(5) Keep funding in the region. Households experiencing homelessness should not lose access to vital programs and services because a jurisdiction is unable to comply with a Round 7 condition. Compliance should never be a reason for withholding or redirecting funding away from the region. We further recommend allowing applicants who fall short of a requirement to work quickly to address the issue.

We share the goals of ensuring accountability, particularly accountability to Californians experiencing homelessness on our streets and in our shelters. However, with uncertainty around future federal funding and a projected multiyear state budget deficit, communities across California are bracing for increased housing instability and homelessness. We look forward to working with you to achieve accountability, while also ensuring our communities are sustaining rental assistance, services, and operating grants for shelter and permanent housing that HHAP has successfully advanced.

Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director & CEO
League of California Cities

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside
Chair, Big City Mayors

Sharon Rapport
CSH, on behalf of
Bring California Home

California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101 | Sacramento, CA 95814

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Assembly Appropriations Committee, Chair
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Consideration of Fiscal Impacts for County Governments
Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File Hearing: Friday, August 29, 2025

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, we write to share the county perspective on pending legislation before your committee. We acknowledge the considerable work ahead as you consider the fiscal impact of hundreds of measures and the tough decisions that will need to be made given the state's current fiscal condition and impacts from federal budget cuts. In addition to the letters that you will receive regarding individual bills, we respectfully offer the following comments:

Counties urge you to reject new unfunded state-mandated local programs
Notwithstanding the merits of the measures introduced this year, many create new, unfunded requirements for county governments. Just like the state, every program and service that a county provides has a cost. Over the past two decades, the state has enacted new, unfunded requirements that are complex and costly, leaving counties with a significant administrative burden and fewer resources to deliver essential services to California residents. Few newly enacted laws that impose new requirements on counties qualify for reimbursement from the state through the Commission on State Mandates. Those few programs that do qualify for state reimbursement must first survive a review process that can last for more than five years before counties receive any funding; all while counties are diligently carrying out the state's priorities with no additional resources.

Counties cannot support new unfunded mandates and the expansion of existing programs without hindering their ability to provide essential public services to Californians, especially the state's most vulnerable. CSAC's publication, *Meeting the Mandate: Counties Respond to Shifting Costs, Responsibilities, and Outcomes*, takes stock of compounding responsibilities facing counties and further illustrates the labor-intensive process to seek reimbursement from the state, which lacks certainty for whether, when, and how much counties will be reimbursed for state-mandated activities. Therefore, unless measures are subject to

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1st Vice President Susan Ellenberg Santa Clara County
2nd Vice President Luis Alejo Monterey County
Past President Bruce Gibson San Luis Obispo County
CEO Graham Knaus

sufficient appropriation in the state budget or are otherwise amended to alleviate additional fiscal burdens for county governments, we unfortunately cannot provide our support.

Fiscal unpredictability compounds existing challenges

When federal and state funding is uncertain, counties struggle to ensure continuity in the vital services residents rely on every day, forcing them to make tough choices that affect real people.

Recent actions at the federal level have significantly impacted the fiscal landscape in California. One major change is the enactment of H.R. 1, which contains several provisions that are devastating to the services that rely on federal funds to support millions of Californians. H.R. 1 significantly increases county administrative duties and costs, directly shifts certain costs to counties, and places untenable financial pressures on other county programs. We urge you to consider how the targeted reductions from the federal government will impact local governments independently, and in conjunction with expensive, unfunded measures presented to your committee.

Furthermore, the state budget is facing ongoing deficits that will only be exacerbated by federal budget cuts. The 2025 Budget Act contained various budget solutions to solve an approximately $12 billion General Fund deficit for 2025-26, including a significant number of reductions to ongoing programs. Even with these solutions, the state's General Fund forecast is projected to have annual budget deficits ranging from $10 billion to $20 billion through 2028-29. These projected deficits will need to be solved for in future years, potentially through additional budget reductions to funding available to support core services delivered by counties.

CSAC continues to emphasize that the state and county budgets are woven together, and legislation that affects the state will, in turn, affect the bottom line for county governments and impact core state services delivered by counties. Considering the significant challenges California faces due to ongoing budget deficits and federal funding cuts, it is more important than ever to carefully consider how these measures impact local government budgets and essential services.

Reevaluate costly measures before advancing them

As we are in the first year of a two-year legislative cycle, this moment presents the opportunity to pause and reassess expensive or unfunded proposals and revisit them in the context of next year's budget. Given the ongoing challenges and the uncertainty at the federal and state level, we urge you to consider whether measures that have a significant impact on local governments should move forward at this time—particularly those that could further strain county budgets or disrupt the delivery of essential services.

Counties urge consideration of priority legislation
In addition to the concerns raised above, counties are **opposed to, opposed unless amended, or have concerns** regarding the following legislation:

SB 7 (McNerney) Employment: automated decision systems. *Oppose*
SB 27 (Umberg) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program. *Concerns*
SB 254 (Becker) Electricity: wildfire mitigation: rate assistance: Policy-Oriented and Wildfire Electric Reimbursement (POWER) Program. *Oppose Unless Amended*
SB 364 (Strickland) Outdoor advertising displays: customary maintenance: permits: new alignments. *Oppose Unless Amended*
SB 485 (Reyes) County public defender: appointment. *Oppose Unless Amended*
SB 601 (Allen) Water: waste discharge. *Oppose*

We remain committed to close collaboration and partnership to achieve our shared goals and serve Californians. While our current economic climate burdens us with increased opposition to bills that could otherwise benefit county operations, we would like to highlight a few bills that would play a critical role in supporting county functions. Counties **support** the following legislation:

SB 72 (Caballero) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. *Sponsor*
SB 74 (Seyarto) Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation: Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program. *Support*
SB 78 (Seyarto) Department of Transportation: report: state highway system: safety enhancements. *Support*
SB 359 (Niello) Use Fuel Tax Law: Diesel Fuel Tax Law: exempt bus operation. *Support*
SB 454 (McNerney) State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program. *Support*

At the end of the day –
Counties appreciate the continued engagement to strengthen state and local relationships, and to realize the opportunities to safeguard fiscal resources to best support the people we collectively serve. Should you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer, CSAC

CC: Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101 | Sacramento, CA 95814

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Consideration of Fiscal Impacts for County Governments
Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File Hearing: Friday, August 29, 2025

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, we write to share the county perspective on pending legislation before your committee. We acknowledge the considerable work ahead as you consider the fiscal impact of hundreds of measures and the tough decisions that will need to be made given the state's current fiscal condition and impacts from federal budget cuts. In addition to the letters that you will receive regarding individual bills, we respectfully offer the following comments:

Counties urge you to reject new unfunded state-mandated local programs.
Notwithstanding the merits of the measures introduced this year, many create new, unfunded requirements for county governments. Just like the state, every program and service that a county provides has a cost. Over the past two decades, the state has enacted new, unfunded requirements that are complex and costly, leaving counties with a significant administrative burden and fewer resources to deliver essential services to California residents. Few newly enacted laws that impose new requirements on counties qualify for reimbursement from the state through the Commission on State Mandates. Those few programs that do qualify for state reimbursement must first survive a review process that can last for more than five years before counties receive any funding; all while counties are diligently carrying out the state's priorities with no additional resources.

Counties cannot support new unfunded mandates and the expansion of existing programs without hindering their ability to provide essential public services to Californians, especially the state's most vulnerable. CSAC's publication, *Meeting the Mandate: Counties Respond to Shifting Costs, Responsibilities, and Outcomes*, takes stock of compounding responsibilities facing counties and further illustrates the labor-intensive process to seek reimbursement from the state, which lacks certainty for whether, when, and how much counties will be reimbursed for state-mandated activities. Therefore, unless measures are subject to

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sufficient appropriation in the state budget or are otherwise amended to alleviate additional fiscal burdens for county governments, we unfortunately cannot provide our support.

Fiscal unpredictability compounds existing challenges.
When federal and state funding is uncertain, counties struggle to ensure continuity in the vital services residents rely on every day, forcing them to make tough choices that affect real people.

Recent actions at the federal level have significantly impacted the fiscal landscape in California. One major change is the enactment of H.R. 1, which contains several provisions that are devastating to the services that rely on federal funds to support millions of Californians. H.R. 1 significantly increases county administrative duties and costs, directly shifts certain costs to counties, and places untenable financial pressures on other county programs. We urge you to consider how the targeted reductions from the federal government will impact local governments independently, and in conjunction with expensive, unfunded measures presented to your committee.

Furthermore, the state budget is facing ongoing deficits that will only be exacerbated by federal budget cuts. The 2025 Budget Act contained various budget solutions to solve an approximately $12 billion General Fund deficit for 2025-26, including a significant number of reductions to ongoing programs. Even with these solutions, the state's General Fund forecast is projected to have annual budget deficits ranging from $10 billion to $20 billion through 2028-29. These projected deficits will need to be solved for in future years, potentially through additional budget reductions to funding available to support core services delivered by counties.

CSAC continues to emphasize that the state and county budgets are woven together, and legislation that affects the state will, in turn, affect the bottom line for county governments and impact core state services delivered by counties. Considering the significant challenges California faces due to ongoing budget deficits and federal funding cuts, it is more important than ever to carefully consider how these measures impact local government budgets and essential services.

Reevaluate costly measures before advancing them.
As we are in the first year of a two-year legislative cycle, this moment presents the opportunity to pause and reassess expensive or unfunded proposals and revisit them in the context of next year's budget. Given the ongoing challenges and the uncertainty at the federal and state level, we urge you to consider whether measures that have a significant impact on local governments should move forward at this time—particularly those that could further strain county budgets or disrupt the delivery of essential services.

Counties urge consideration of priority legislation.
In addition to the concerns raised above, counties are **opposed to** the following legislation:

AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.
AB 690 (Schultz) Criminal procedure: indigent defense compensation.
AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan) Employment: automated decision systems.
AB 1331 (Elhawary) Workplace surveillance.

We remain committed to close collaboration and partnership to achieve our shared goals and serve Californians. While our current economic climate burdens us with increased opposition to bills that could otherwise benefit county operations, we would like to highlight a few bills that would play a critical role in supporting county functions. Counties **support** the following legislation:

AB 543 (Gonzalez) Medi-Cal: street medicine.
AB 462 (Lowenthal) Land use: accessory dwelling units.
AB 620 (Jackson) Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program: rental vehicles.
AB 1288 (Addis) Registered environmental health specialists.

At the end of the day –
Counties appreciate the continued engagement to strengthen state and local relationships, and to realize the opportunities to safeguard fiscal resources to best support the people we collectively serve. Should you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer, CSAC

CC: Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Liah Burnley, Principal Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee



ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 339 (Ortega): Local public employee organizations: notice requirements

As amended 8/29/25 – OPPOSE/NON-CONCURRENCE

The organizations above respectfully urge your "no" vote on AB 339 (Ortega). We continue to have strong concerns about moving this measure forward, even with recent amendments that purport to limit the scope of the bill. AB 339 continues to impose considerable costs to local agencies, including new notification requirements, unclear language that will undoubtedly result in increased conflict and eventual litigation with our labor partners, and significant delays in executing programs and delivering services. **AB 339 will make it harder to provide homeless outreach services, emergency medical care, or conduct solid waste removal, to name just a few of the critical services on which our communities rely.**

Recent amendments exempting certain public works projects is evidence that AB 339 will delay important public programs and services. There would not need to be language that exempts certain public works projects in AB 339 if there was not a common understanding that the bill would delay the provision of public services. As we have repeatedly pointed out, we have seen no evidence that there is a real, widespread, existing problem that AB 339 is attempting to address; instead, the measure provides unwarranted delays and opportunity for disputes.

Employers already have a duty to notify labor organizations before contracting out work. AB 339 applies to ***any*** contract that is within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization; for local agencies with represented workforces, this essentially means nearly every contract would be subject to notice. An administrative remedy is already available to recognized employee organizations when they believe that a local agency has neglected to meet existing notification and meet and confer requirements regarding contracting. Failure to adhere to existing requirements under the MMBA and related case law subjects a local agency to a potential unfair labor practice charge at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). AB 339's redundant and impractical approach will expose local agencies to additional costs that result from a new and potentially significant workload increase.

Definition of "emergency" is inconsistent and vague. The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for considerable flexibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. This language only adds another opportunity for disagreement with our labor partners when local agencies need to focus available resources on response and recovery during an emergency.

AB 339 could not come at a worse time. With the state and local agencies grappling with a substantial and growing decline in support from the federal government for a variety of programs and services, now is not the time to undermine local agencies' efforts to continue to provide safety net and quality of life services to their communities. Partnership with local non-profit organizations, who are on the front lines of providing critical local services, is essential to assist local agencies to maximize federal, state, and local resources to ensure that services reach those who need them most.

Vote "NO" on AB 339. There is no evidence that any of these new requirements will improve outcomes, gain efficiencies, or enhance the quality of life in California communities. As a result, local agencies remain opposed to AB 339.

FLOOR ALERT

AB 692 (Kalra) – OPPOSE

Recent amendments do not address all Opposition concerns.

AB 692 eliminates or limits voluntary incentive programs like hiring incentives, advances, signing bonuses, assistance with relocation costs, loan forgiveness programs, and more.

The bill still applies to non-employees, such as independent contractors and freelance workers. Those could be highly paid, sophisticated individuals who enter into temporary arrangements with an organization. If they left two weeks into a one-year contract, the organization would be limited in its ability to recuperate any advances, signing bonuses, or moving costs.

And even for employees, the bill still has a two-year limit on any signing bonuses. That limitation applies even to highly-paid professionals who often have attorneys reviewing and approving contract terms.

VOTE NO ON AB 692 (Kalra)



VOTE NO ON AB 692 (Kalra)

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan): Automated decision systems.
As amended July 17, 2025 – OPPOSE

On behalf of the above organizations, we regretfully urge you to **VOTE NO** on Assembly Bill 1018. This bill will impose significant operational and financial burdens on local governments that could hinder our ability to deliver essential services and ultimately discourage the use of tools that can improve access and government efficiency.

- **Broad Scope Raises Implementation Concerns.** The broad scope and definitions used in AB 1018 could encompass routine administrative tools used in everyday operations, including tools related to hiring, employee scheduling and training and development, property appraisals, planning and permitting reviews, and certain case management systems. These tools are essential for improving efficiency and service delivery, especially as local governments are increasingly tasked with doing more with fewer resources. The bill's broad application risks forcing local governments to abandon effective systems or simply decide not to implement new tools, slowing innovation and impeding public service.

- **Significant Compliance Obligations Cost Time and Money.** AB 1018 imposes significant and costly new compliance obligations, without providing funding or implementation support, and requires these activities to be completed within a timeframe that is not feasible for implementation. The costs are difficult to estimate but are likely to be substantial depending on a variety of factors, including the number of systems that meet the definitions in the bill, whether those systems require updates or need to be replaced, and the workload needed to implement the bill.

- **Appeals Process Could Be Duplicative.** AB 1018's appeals provisions may duplicate existing appeal and redetermination processes, including in the criminal justice system, certain government benefits and services, and in public employment contexts where collective bargaining agreements already provide mechanisms for appealing personnel decisions. Overlaying the new appeal rights included in AB 1018 could create confusion, workload redundancy, and legal uncertainty.

- **Concerns about the Impacts on Future Use of ADS and AI Technology.** Local governments are on the forefront of developing and adopting policies that establish practices for the secure, ethical, effective, and responsible use of AI. The bill's broad scope, significant implementation requirements, and substantial cost will place a significant strain on limited local budgets, potentially hindering their ability to adopt and benefit from these technologies.

Vote NO on AB 1018.

For more information, please contact Emma Jungwirth, California State Association of Counties: ejungwirth@counties.org

SENATE FLOOR ALERT
AB 1331 (Elhawary) - Workplace Surveillance.
As Amended September 4, 2025 – OPPOSE

On behalf of a broad coalition of local agency and school associations, we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on Assembly Bill 1331 (Elhawary). The latest amendments do not address our deep concerns or remove our opposition.**

AB 1331 will impose significant **costs and complexity while undermining safety** for public agencies, requiring rapid compliance audits, changes to hardware and software, and subjecting agencies to fines for noncompliance.

One stated purpose of the bill is to protect the ability for employees to unionize. Public workforces are already protected by robust state laws for the right to unionize and discuss union matters at the workplace.

AB 1331 will **remove or restrict essential tools that protect our workforce and the public we serve**. As defined, this bill includes any device or system that collects or facilitates the collection of worker activities, communications, or actions. These include routine security tools like cameras, ID badges, or key fobs, and basic office tools like email and Microsoft Teams.

These tools are used for critical security purposes that protect sensitive populations, prevent workplace violence incidents, safeguard critical infrastructure, uphold election validity, and keep students, educators, and other public employees safe.

AB 1331 will compromise safety and protection of public resources while imposing significant costs, administrative burdens, and legal liabilities.

Vote NO on AB 1331

For more information, contact Eric Lawyer, California State Association of Counties: (elawyer@counties.org)

September 3, 2025

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

Re: **SB 346 (Durazo): Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator**
As amended 7/07/25 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 346, Senator Durazo's measure that will strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals.

Regrettably, the application of local TOT ordinances and collection and remittance of taxes is inconsistent and often simply avoided, even when voluntary collection agreements are entered into. Because local agencies do not have access to the address or any other personally identifiable information for listed properties, even under voluntary collection agreements, cities and counties are in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes without this critical information and trusting that it is accurately collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is a time- and cost-intensive process that may or may not result in a fair application of local laws.

SB 346 promises to increase TOT compliance and ensure that local agencies are appropriately collecting tax revenue from those that are lawfully licensed short-term rental properties by authorizing a local agency to require the short-term rental facilitator to report the physical address of the short-term rental property and, if that information is insufficient for the local agency, additional identifying information. Further, such authority will assist local agencies in ensuring that TOT obligations are consistent among other short-term stay facilities, like hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts, and that those that profit from short-term rental properties are no longer able to obfuscate their location and therefore their tax obligations.

SB 346 is a much-needed effort to modernize California statute and provide local agencies the tools needed to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies. As a result, we respectfully urge your signature on SB 346.

Sincerely,





Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, California State Senate
Ben Triffo, League of California Cities
Karen Lange, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Tony Strickland
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 364 (Strickland) – Advertising displays.**
REMOVE OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED (*As amended September 2, 2025*)

Dear Senator Strickland,

Based upon the amendments, dated today, to Senate Bill 364, the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties have removed our previous position of oppose unless amened and now are neutral.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dconklin@calcities.org or Mark Neuburger at mneuburger@counties.org

Sincerely,

Damon Conklin
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

September 4, 2025

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 485 (Reyes) County public defender: appointment.
As Amended April 7, 2025 – OPPOSE

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) respectfully request a **'NO' vote** on Senate Bill (SB) 485 by Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes. SB 485 proposes to change the employment status of county public defenders from at-will to one in which removal may only occur by a majority vote of the local board of supervisors for neglect of duty, malfeasance, misconduct in office, or other good cause.

SB 485 lacks key structural safeguards

- While the author and sponsors mirrored the bill with employment protections for county counsel, they intentionally omitted a critical provision that provides a four-year term for performance evaluation. Our previous requests for this simple amendment, which would have created parity with county counsel and established reasonable and essential checks and balances, was rejected.

SB 485 sets a new precedent for appointed county department heads

- If this measure were enacted, the public defender's employment status would be an outlier in the broader county organizational framework for all non-elected department leaders. Maintaining consistency and comparability across all appointed county leadership positions is integral to the balance of government.

SB 485 is a solution in search of a problem

- Counties deeply value the vital role public defenders play in meeting counties' constitutional mandate. However, we question the need for elevated employment protections as no specific, documented examples to justify a change have been provided, raising legitimate concerns about the necessity of this bill. In fact, there are very few examples county counsel can draw from where the at-will authority was ever exercised by a board of supervisors.

As organizations representing California's elected county supervisors, we urge your consideration of our concerns, which are rooted in principles of good governance, organizational consistency, and process clarity – standards we would be seeking to accompany statutory changes for the employment status of ***any*** appointed county department head.

Counties urge a 'NO' vote on SB 485.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 707 (Durazo) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements
As Amended July 17, 2025 – SUPPORT

On behalf of a coalition of county associations, community college students, disability rights advocates, and public authorities, we are proud to support SB 707 and ask for your **AYE VOTE** on Senate Bill 707, which represents the most sweeping and ambitious modernization of the Brown Act in history.

SB 707 represents will update the Brown Act in a way that balances the concerns of local governments and government transparency advocates alike. SB 707 will:

- **Improve access** to local government meetings by requiring remote meeting participation for the public for county boards of supervisors, city councils, and some special district governing board meetings.
- **Expand participation** among underrepresented groups and communities by requiring agenda translations into other languages for the first time in the history of the Brown Act. SB 707 would also **require outreach to underrepresented groups**, establish the right for Brown Act body members with disabilities to participate in meetings remotely, and require accommodation of interpretation.
- **Heighten accountability** by expanding requirements for closed session personnel actions for officers and department heads and **restricting the use of special meetings** to discuss compensation of legislative body members.
- **Extend and improve** existing law for community college student board meetings, neighborhood council meetings, meetings held during emergencies, remote meeting participation for members, and rules for social media engagement.
- **Improves representation on local advisory bodies** by allowing new flexibility for members of non-decision-making bodies – but excludes elected members or bodies dedicated to police oversight, elections, privacy, budgets, or taxes.

Vote YES on SB 707

For more information, please contact Eric Lawyer, California State Association of Counties (elawyer@counties.org) or Sarah Dukett, Rural County Representatives of California (sdukett@rcrcnet.org).

California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101 | Sacramento, CA 95814

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

The Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
1021 O Street, Room 6120
Sacramento, CA 9514

Re: CalFresh Budget Action – $90.7 Million General Fund

Dear Chairs Wiener, Gabriel, Weber Pierson, and Jackson:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I am writing to request state investment for increased county CalFresh workload in response to the passage of federal H.R. 1. In order to minimize disruptions to food assistance as a result of H.R. 1, CSAC respectfully requests a mid-year budget investment of $90.7 million General Fund (GF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 prior to the end of the legislative session.

Counties perform the essential eligibility and enrollment work for CalFresh that ensures that individuals can receive needed nutrition assistance. The H.R. 1 changes to the CalFresh program will require increased resource-intensive work and recipient engagement that is not currently funded in the state CalFresh allocation for this year. Counties are already fully utilizing their allocation and unable to absorb the entirely new workload. In order to ensure that families, children, and older adults do not lose access to nutrition benefits, immediate budget action is required.

Several provisions of H.R. 1 related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were slated to go into effect upon enactment. H.R. 1 expands the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit to older adults ages 55-64 and parents with older dependents ages 14-18, and eliminates exemptions for veterans, former foster youth,

CSAC Officers

President Jeff Griffiths, Inyo County
1st Vice President Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara County
2nd Vice President Luis Alejo, Monterey County
Past President Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County
CEO Graham Knaus

and people experiencing homelessness. More specifically, the ABAWD time limit restricts ABAWDs in receiving CalFresh benefits for a maximum of three months in a 3-year period unless they meet specific work requirements. For the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), counties will now have to verify household utility expenses that were previously standardized, creating numerous additional verification tasks to ensure benefits are maximized.

While implementation timelines are still subject to forthcoming federal guidance, counties must begin staffing up to ensure recipients are thoroughly informed of the work requirements, have necessary supports to complete relevant work documentation, and are robustly screened for exemptions—all ultimately supporting continuity of benefits. This includes engagement to ensure that clients are aware of options available to them to satisfy the requirements and making referrals to employment and training programs. As a result, counties will need to manage a significant new workload.

Statewide, counties need $90.7 million GF in 2025-26 to manage the extensive new workload and support recipients in navigating work requirements, time limits, and SUA changes. Absent state action, H.R. 1 will increase hunger among children, families, and older adults, and destabilize CalFresh county operations which may expose California to increased fiscal liabilities. CSAC urges you to adopt this critical budget action to protect California's most vulnerable families and communities. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or jgarrett@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Elizabeth Schmitt, Consultant, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review
Nicole Vazquez, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget
Jennifer Troia, Director, California Department of Social Services
Kris Cook, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

August 29, 2025

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

RE: Implementation of H.R. 1

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), we are writing to share the dramatic impacts to county health and human services programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. Thank you to your Administration for your work to begin examining the statewide impacts, including hosting recent webinars. Counties are eager to partner with you to mitigate the detrimental consequences of this legislation and preserve critical safety net services to the maximum extent possible.

As a result of the passage of H.R. 1, there will be clear and direct impacts on the low-income and vulnerable children, youth, families, and older adults that counties serve beginning right now and growing over the coming years.

Together, we will need to be mindful of the cascading impacts as we develop strategies to ensure the continuity of services. H.R. 1 affects counties and the communities that we serve in the following ways:

1. **Increased County Workload –** H.R. 1 expands work requirements for CalFresh, creates new work requirements for Medi-Cal, and increases the frequency and complexity of eligibility verifications for Medi-Cal. Counties are responsible for eligibility and enrollment in this state and are mandated to perform this work. Initial estimates indicate that the increased workload resulting from H.R. 1 will cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually within each program. Successful implementation will take additional staff resources, require new training, and depend on timely automation and IT changes.
2. **Direct Cost Shifts to Counties –** H.R. 1 reduces the federal share of CalFresh administration and Medi-Cal emergency services for certain patients, directly shifting these costs to the state and counties. For CalFresh administration, the federal share is reduced from 50% to 25% resulting in an increase of more than $200 million annually for counties. 1991 Realignment revenues are used to support county CalFresh administration costs, but this funding structure will not grow fast enough to assist counties with paying for these additional new administrative costs. Additionally, within the 1991 Realignment structure, CalFresh funding will also then compete for resources currently supporting other social services, health, and behavioral health programs. For Medi-Cal, H.R. 1 reduces the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for emergency services for childless adults with unsatisfactory immigration status from 90% to the state's FMAP floor (50% for California). Public health care systems, many of which are operated by counties, provide the non-federal share for the emergency services they provide in Medi-Cal for fee-for-service. As a result, the FMAP reduction will likely result in a direct loss of $88 to $229 million annually for county public hospitals and health care systems.
3. **Indirect Impacts and Strain on the Safety Net –** H.R. 1 reduces eligibility for Medi-Cal and CalFresh while also increasing and complicating the paperwork and other requirements to stay enrolled in the programs even when individuals are eligible. While additional federal and state guidance is forthcoming, it is possible that millions of Californians will lose coverage because of these changes. As individuals and families lose Medi-Cal coverage, their need for prevention, health care, and specialty behavioral health care services will persist and uninsured community members are likely to then turn to other programs, such as county public health, indigent health, and behavioral health safety net programs. These programs are not funded to handle such a large increase in uncompensated care and new cost pressures. County indigent programs have dramatically shrunk in size since implementation of the Affordable

Care Act. Additionally, 1991 Realignment funds that were available for indigent care have since been redirected to other programs under AB 85 (Statutes of 2013). Counties will need time and resources to scale up and expand indigent programs. Public health clinics have also scaled down over the years, as services like vaccinations and STD services became more widely available through Medicaid and other coverage expansions. Rebuilding that infrastructure will be essential to meet increased demand. Additionally, county hospitals anticipate seeing an increase in uncompensated care as the number of uninsured Californians increases, which will occur as other federal revenue sources decline under H.R. 1.

4. **Health Care Financing Restrictions –** State Directed Payments (SDPs) play a critical role ensuring access to quality health care for persons covered by Medi-Cal by supplementing low reimbursement rates. H.R. 1 imposes a cap on future SDPs and incrementally reduces existing SDPs to meet 100% of Medicare rates. California's public hospitals and health care systems estimate this phase down will result in a $2.3 billion annual net loss by 2032. Further, restrictions on provider taxes in California, including the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax, will also increase the fiscal pressures to Medi-Cal and other programs.

Simply put, counties do not have the ability to manage the increased workload, cost shifts, reduced funding, and new pressures on other county programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. The financial strain on counties will impact the people served by counties in our hospitals, clinics, behavioral health systems, public health departments, and social services safety net. Without additional resources, counties will be forced to drastically cut and eliminate programs and services, not just within health and human services, but across the full spectrum of county government including public safety, parks, and homelessness.

In addition to H.R. 1, counties are facing other fiscal and operational challenges. These include federal funding reductions and withholding of spending authority for various public health and behavioral health programs, significant reductions to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments to safety net hospitals which are scheduled to take effect in October, looming federal regulatory changes that may have significant financing implications, and the state eligibility and payment changes to Medi-Cal recently enacted in the 2025 Budget Act.

Counties are the backbone of the safety net system in California, providing services to vulnerable individuals and families on behalf of the state. It takes adequate funding and time for counties to hire, support, and retain the workforce that ensures that those in need get health care and food assistance as effectively as possible. For example, investments from the state to adequately fund CalFresh administration will help counties ensure individuals can efficiently receive and retain their benefits. This becomes even more significant with the

implementation of H.R. 1's CalFresh benefit cost sharing provision, as this can help reduce errors and in turn the amount that the state will owe for benefits. Strategic state investments to update systems and maintain critical functions will help mitigate the harms of H.R. 1 and help preserve California's health and social services infrastructure.

While H.R. 1 will loom over and impact state budget decisions and bills for the foreseeable future, it's critical to mitigate these distinct and direct impacts on counties to maintain safety net services for low-income and vulnerable Californians. We urge you to consider county needs in any mid-year budget action as well as the development of next year's budget, and include counties in the creation of any implementation plans or designs for operational efficiencies.

We look forward to continued discussions and further dialogue as additional information and guidance becomes available so that the H.R. 1 impacts can be further estimated and defined. Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,

Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Representative
UCC

Sarah Dukett
Senior Policy Advocate
RCRC

Carlos Marquez III
Executive Director
CWDA

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
CHEAC

Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA

Erica Murray
President & CEO
CAPH

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services
Jennifer Troia, Director, California Department of Social Services

August 29, 2025

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

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Implementation of H.R. 1

Dear Pro Tem McGuire and Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), we are writing to share the dramatic impacts to county health and human services programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. Thank you to the Legislature for your work to begin examining the statewide impacts, including hosting recent informational hearings. Counties are eager to partner with you to mitigate the detrimental consequences of this legislation and preserve critical safety net services to the maximum extent possible.

As a result of the passage of H.R. 1, there will be clear and direct impacts on the low-income and vulnerable children, youth, families, and older adults that counties serve beginning right

now and growing over the coming years. Together, we will need to be mindful of the cascading impacts as we develop strategies to ensure the continuity of services. H.R. 1 affects counties and the communities that we serve in the following ways:

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While H.R. 1 will loom over and impact state budget decisions and bills for the foreseeable future, it's critical to mitigate these distinct and direct impacts on counties to maintain safety net services for low-income and vulnerable Californians. We urge you to consider county needs in any mid-year budget action as well as the development of next year's budget, and include counties in the creation of any implementation plans or designs for operational efficiencies.

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Sincerely,

Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC

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Legislative Representative
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Executive Director
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Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA

Erica Murray
President & CEO
CAPH

cc: The Honorable Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore-Elect
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
The Honorable Dawn Addis, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair, Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
The Honorable Jesse Arreguín, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Alex Lee, Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

California State Association of Counties®
1100 K Street, Suite 101 | Sacramento, CA 95814

Monday, August 25, 2025

Commission on State Mandates
980 9th Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Race-Blind Charging. 24-TC-07.

Dear Chair Stephenshaw and Members of the Commission on State Mandates,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) submits this comment letter regarding the test claim submitted by Santa Clara County, Sutter County and the City of Sacramento (claimants) for Chapter 806, Statutes of 2022 (Assembly Bill 2778, McCarty). The primary purpose of CSAC is to represent county government before the California Legislature, California administrative agencies, and the federal government. This includes advocating on the value and need for county programs and services and for adequate funding to provide those services. CSAC submits this letter in accordance with the Commission's July 24, 2025 "Notice of Complete Test Claim, Schedule for Comments, and Notice of Tentative Hearing Date" which states that written comments may be submitted until 5:00pm on Monday, August 25, 2025. CSAC wishes to provide the subsequent comments in support of test claim 24-TC-07 submitted by the claimants on June 10, 2025.

As thoroughly examined in the test claim, the requirements of AB 2778 (Penal Code section 741) create a new program for local agencies that was freely imposed by the state. The activities required therein, in the interest of reducing racial bias within the state's criminal justice system, are unique to prosecuting local governmental agencies and do not affect the private sector, nor are these newly required activities the result of carrying out federal requirements or voter-approved statewide initiatives. Further, at this time, CSAC is not aware of any offsetting revenue dedicated to these newly mandated activities that would be deducted from the costs claimed by local agencies.

Critically, the race-blind charging procedures prescribed in Penal Code section 741 for initial charging evaluations do not define a new crime, change an existing definition of a crime, or change the penalty for a crime or infraction. An initial charging assessment is an evaluative process used to determine whether a person should be formally charged with a crime. While

the process for an initial charging assessment is amended by the test claim statute to reduce racial bias, should that person ultimately be charged with a crime, the definition of the crime and the range of penalties for their crime or infraction is unchanged. In this manner, the test claim submitted for race-blind charging is not unlike the previously approved test claim for the racial and identity profiling (18-TC-02), which also mandated new activities in the interest of reducing racial discrimination and included similar data reporting requirements to the state.

For these reasons, CSAC urges the Commission to approve the test claim as submitted. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer



ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 339 (Ortega): Local public employee organizations: notice requirements

As amended 8/29/25 – OPPOSE/NON-CONCURRENCE

The organizations above respectfully urge your "no" vote on AB 339 (Ortega). We continue to have strong concerns about moving this measure forward, even with recent amendments that purport to limit the scope of the bill. AB 339 continues to impose considerable costs to local agencies, including new notification requirements, unclear language that will undoubtedly result in increased conflict and eventual litigation with our labor partners, and significant delays in executing programs and delivering services. **AB 339 will make it harder to provide homeless outreach services, emergency medical care, or conduct solid waste removal, to name just a few of the critical services on which our communities rely.**

Recent amendments exempting certain public works projects is evidence that AB 339 will delay important public programs and services. There would not need to be language that exempts certain public works projects in AB 339 if there was not a common understanding that the bill would delay the provision of public services. As we have repeatedly pointed out, we have seen no evidence that there is a real, widespread, existing problem that AB 339 is attempting to address; instead, the measure provides unwarranted delays and opportunity for disputes.

Employers already have a duty to notify labor organizations before contracting out work. AB 339 applies to ***any*** contract that is within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization; for local agencies with represented workforces, this essentially means nearly every contract would be subject to notice. An administrative remedy is already available to recognized employee organizations when they believe that a local agency has neglected to meet existing notification and meet and confer requirements regarding contracting. Failure to adhere to existing requirements under the MMBA and related case law subjects a local agency to a potential unfair labor practice charge at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). AB 339's redundant and impractical approach will expose local agencies to additional costs that result from a new and potentially significant workload increase.

Definition of "emergency" is inconsistent and vague. The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for considerable flexibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. This language only adds another opportunity for disagreement with our labor partners when local agencies need to focus available resources on response and recovery during an emergency.

AB 339 could not come at a worse time. With the state and local agencies grappling with a substantial and growing decline in support from the federal government for a variety of programs and services, now is not the time to undermine local agencies' efforts to continue to provide safety net and quality of life services to their communities. Partnership with local non-profit organizations, who are on the front lines of providing critical local services, is essential to assist local agencies to maximize federal, state, and local resources to ensure that services reach those who need them most.

Vote "NO" on AB 339. There is no evidence that any of these new requirements will improve outcomes, gain efficiencies, or enhance the quality of life in California communities. As a result, local agencies remain opposed to AB 339.



September 10, 2025

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

Re: **AB 339 (Ortega): Local Public Employee Organizations: notice requirements**
As amended 8/29/25 – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom:

The 55 organizations above respectfully request your veto of AB 339 (Ortega). AB 339 continues to impose considerable costs to local agencies, including new notification requirements, unclear language that will undoubtedly result in increased conflict and eventual litigation with our labor partners, and significant delays in executing programs and delivering services. **AB 339 will make it harder to provide homeless outreach services, emergency medical care, or conduct solid waste removal, to name just a few of the critical services on which our communities rely.**

Recent amendments exempting certain public works projects are evidence that AB 339 will delay important public programs and services. There would not be a need for language that exempts public works projects in AB 339 if there was not a common understanding that the bill would delay the provision of public services. As we have repeatedly pointed out, we have seen no evidence that there is a real, widespread, existing problem that AB 339 is attempting to address; instead, the measure provides unwarranted delays and opportunity for disputes.

AB 339 has an extremely broad reach and ignores existing employee protections. AB 339 applies to ***nearly any*** contract (outside of the public works exemption) that is within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization; for local agencies with represented workforces, this essentially means the vast majority of contracts would be subject to notice. An administrative remedy is already available to recognized employee organizations when they believe that a local agency has neglected to meet existing notification and meet and confer requirements regarding contracting. Failure to adhere to existing requirements under the MMBA and related case law subjects a local agency to a potential unfair labor practice charge at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). AB 339's redundant and impractical approach will expose local agencies to additional costs that result from a new and potentially significant workload increase.

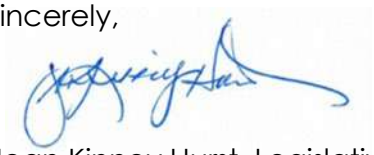
Definition of "emergency" is inconsistent and vague. The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for considerable flexibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. This language only adds another opportunity for disagreement with our labor partners when local agencies need to focus available resources on response and recovery during an emergency.

AB 339 could not come at a worse time. With the state and local agencies grappling with a substantial and growing decline in support from the federal government for a variety of programs and services, now is not the time to undermine local agencies' efforts to continue to provide safety net and quality of life services to their communities. Partnership with local non-profit organizations, who are on the front lines of providing

critical local services, is essential to assist local agencies to maximize federal, state, and local resources to ensure that services reach those who need them most.

There is no evidence that any of the new requirements proposed in AB 339 will improve outcomes, increase efficiencies, or enhance the quality of life in California communities. As a result, the local agencies remain opposed to AB 339 and respectfully urge your veto of this measure.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst, Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Eric Lawyer, Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Sarah Bridge, Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts



Aaron Avery, Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association



Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities



Jason Schmelzer, Legislative Advocate
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management



Julia Bishop Hall, Director of State Legislative Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



Farrah McDaid Ting, Deputy Director of Policy
County Health Executives Association of California



Cory M. Salzillo, Legislative Director
California State Sheriffs' Association



Candace Andersen, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors



Susan Parker, County Administrative Officer
County of Lake

Joshua Pedrozo, Chairman
Merced County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Chair
Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Paul Canepa, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Erin Evans-Fudem, Legislative Deputy
County Counsel
Office of the County Counsel, County of Santa Clara

Peter M. Rietkerk, General Manager
South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Buddy Mendes, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Michael Pimentel, Executive Director
California Transit Association

Jessica Gauger, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Bonnie Gore, Chair (District 1)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Elisia De Bord, Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer
County of Sacramento

Connie Juárez-Diroll, Chief Legislative Officer
County of San Mateo

Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
United Water Conversation District

Kristina Gallagher, Executive Director
Madera County Economic Development Commission

Dane Hutchings, Legislative Representative
California Association of Recreation and Park Districts

Dawn Rowe, Chairman
County of San Bernardino

Sue Mosburg, Executive Director
American Water Works Association, California-Nevada Section



Brian Olney, General Manager
Helix Water District



Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate
California Animal Welfare Association



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Olivenhain Municipal Water District



Chris Berch, P.E., General Manager
Jurupa Community Services District



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Contra Costa Water District



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Brett Hodgkiss, General Manager
Vista Irrigation District

Sean Barclay, General Manager
Tahoe City Public Utility District

James Wheeler, General Manager
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

Jim Friedl, General Manager
Conejo Recreation and Park District

Jofil Borja, Environmental Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager
Sacramento Area Sewer District

Greg Thomas, General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Robert C. Ferrante, Chief Engineer & General Manager
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Tim Ogden, General Manager
Cosumnes Community Services District

Kyle Swanson, CEO/General Manager
Padre Dam Municipal Water District

Sarah Zárate, Director
City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations
City of San Jose

cc: The Honorable Liz Ortega, California State Assembly


URBAN COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA
CSAC
RCRC
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
CSDA
ACHD
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS
CHEAC
Improving the Health of all Californians
ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
California
PRISM
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management
ACWA
Association of California Water Agencies
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CALIFORNIA
THE SEAL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA
THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 1850
COUNTY OF Placer
MERCED COUNTY 18 55
AIA California
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
CALIFORNIA BUILDING OFFICIALS
SSJID 115
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
115 YEARS OF SERVICE
COUNTY OF LAKE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE COUNTY OF FRESNO 1856
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE MAY 9, 1893
CalGeo
The California Geotechnical Engineering Association
CASA
CARPD
California Association of Recreation and Park Districts
CELSA
California Transit Association
CalAnimals
Since 1909
HAYWARD AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
HARD
CAPH
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS & HEALTH SYSTEMS
Helix
WATER DISTRICT
American Water Works Association
California-Nevada Section
Bay Area Air District
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
jurupa
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
Proudly serving Jurupa Valley and Eastvale
APWA
CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS
cprs
advancing california's park & recreation profession
COUNTY of VENTURA
ESTABLISHED 1956 OTAY WATER DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT
ASCE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
REGION 9
OLIVENHAIN
Municipal Water District
VALLEY CENTER Water Conservation / A Way of Life MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
West Valley Water District
CAJPA
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
Tahoe City Public Utility District
AGC CALIFORNIA
VID
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
ELSINORE VALLEY
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
WATER DISTRICT
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MADERA COUNTY EDC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
Established 1961
SACRAMENTO AREA SEWER DISTRICT
Conejo
Recreation & Park District
COSUMNES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS
Converting Waste Into Resources

August 22, 2025

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

Re: **AB 339 (Ortega): Local public employee organizations: notice requirements**
As amended 7/15/25 – OPPOSE
Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File – REQUEST HOLD IN COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), League of California Cities (CalCities), Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), Contra Costa County, Fresno County, Lake County, Los Angeles County, Merced County, Placer County, Riverside County, Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, San Bernardino County, Ventura County, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, American Council of Engineering Companies of California, California Geotechnical Engineering Association (CalGeo), the American Institute of Architects California, California Building Officials (CALBO), California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD), California Transit Association, California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), the California and Nevada Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association (CELSA), Helix Water District, the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), Bay Area Air District, California-Nevada Section, American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA), the Jurupa Community Services District, the American Public Works Association – California Chapters, the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), Contra Costa Water District, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)-Region 9, Coachella Valley Water District, the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA), West Valley Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Valley Center Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Vista Irrigation District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Conejo Recreation and Park District, Sacramento Area Sewer District, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Association of General Contractors, Madera County Economic Development Commission, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, and Cosumnes Community Services District, we again write in respectful opposition to Assembly Bill 339. As we have shared with you previously, we have strongly and consistently urged the Legislature to avoid measures that undermine local agencies' efforts to provide programs and services to the public by requiring new, time-consuming, and costly administrative requirements. AB 339 would require the governing body of a local public agency (non-school) to provide written notice to the employee organization no less than 60 days prior to issuing any request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization, and to engage in potentially extensive and lengthy negotiations regarding each of those actions upon request. AB 339 imposes significant costs to local agencies, including new noticing requirements, extended labor negotiations, and likely delays in services and projects. As a result, we respectfully urge that you hold this bill in committee.

AB 339 applies to ***any*** contract that is within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization; for local agencies with represented workforces, this essentially means nearly every contract would be subject to notice and possible meet and confer. This provision is considerably broader than the existing requirement for bargaining under the Meyers-Milias Brown Act (MMBA); existing law incorporates several common-sense limitations upon the requirement to meet and confer – including where there is a longstanding past practice of contracting for particular services, or where contracting out is contemplated in the applicable MOU. AB 339 subverts these well-settled principles to the detriment of local public services by expanding opportunities for meet and confer negotiations, which – in addition to the bill's notification requirements – will expose local agencies to additional costs that result from a new and potentially significant workload increase.

An administrative remedy is already available to recognized employee organizations when they believe that a local agency has neglected to meet existing notification and meet and confer requirements regarding contracting. Failure to adhere to existing requirements under the MMBA and related case law subjects a local agency to a potential unfair labor practice charge at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Labor unions can and do successfully challenge contracting decisions at PERB; we are puzzled as to why this existing practice is not sufficient to meet their goals.

The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority; in addition, this provision only applies to the initial notice requirement – not the meet and confer provisions – making the provision nearly meaningless in an emergency circumstance. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for considerable flexibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. Again, AB 339 would prove costly for local agencies attempting to focus available resources on response and recovery during an emergency.

As evidenced by the most recent amendments, AB 339 will significantly delay public works projects and could grind building permit processing, design, and construction of needed housing or infrastructure projects to a halt. When the state continues to look to local agencies for action on projects that will assist in making housing available to all income levels, ensure that communities are provided with safe and reliable drinking water, among others, placing additional administrative burdens on that work will only serve to squander resources and frustrate residents.

The bill also deters local agencies from working in partnership with local community organizations, who are at the front lines of providing critical local services, and who are already under scrutiny by the federal government, adding considerable uncertainty to their ongoing financial viability. We value our partnerships with these organizations, as they often provide culturally competent outreach and direct services to groups that can be difficult to serve; these partnerships allow local agencies to maximize federal, state, and local resources to ensure that services reach those who need them most.

Finally, we once again dispute that local agencies are inappropriately withholding public records and further disagree that local agencies are failing to comply with existing notification requirements under the MMBA. If either were true, there are already existing remedies for sponsors to address these issues.

In this unprecedented era of economic uncertainty and instability of government systems, now is not the time to require local agencies to expend additional resources on administrative burdens without any evidence of these new requirements improving outcomes, gaining efficiencies, or enhancing the quality of life in our communities. ***As a result, we respectfully urge you to hold the bill in committee.*** Should you have any questions about our position, please reach out directly.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Sarah Bridge
Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts



Aaron Avery
Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association



Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities



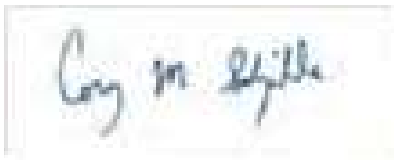
Jason Schmelzer
Legislative Advocate
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management



Julia Bishop Hall
Director of State Legislative Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



Farrah McDaid Ting
Deputy Director of Policy
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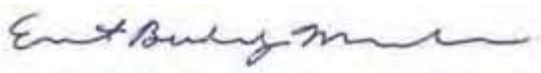
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Eric P. Angstadt
CELSA
Executive Secretary

Tyler Munzing, Director of Government Affairs
American Council of Engineering Companies of California

Scott Terrell, Director of Government Relations
The American Institute of Architects California

Matthew Wheeler, DPPD, Executive Director
California Building Officials (CALBO)



Buddy Mendes, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors



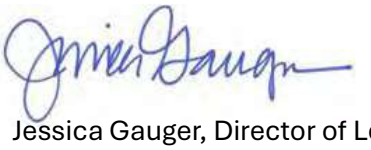
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California Association of Recreation and Park Districts



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California Transit Association



Dawn Rowe, Chairman
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California Association of Sanitation Agencies



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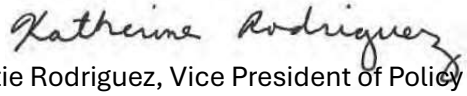
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California Animal Welfare Association



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Joubin Pakpour
Director
American Public Works Association — California Chapters



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Legislative Advocate
County of Ventura



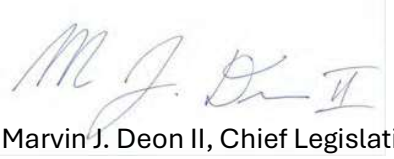
Stephanie Stephens
Exeuctive Director
California Park and Recreation Society



Ernesto A. Avila, Board President
Contra Costa Water District



Yazdan Emrani, Region 9 Director
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-Region 9



Marvin J. Deon II, Chief Legislative Representative
County of Los Angeles



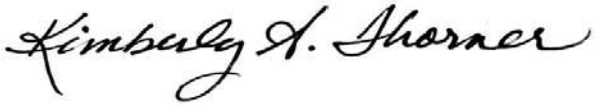
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Coachella Valley Water District



Faith Borges, Legislative Advocate
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA)



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Kimberly A. Thorner, General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District



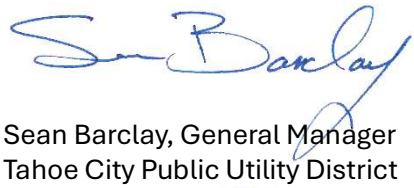
Gary Arant, General Manager
Valley Center Municipal Water District



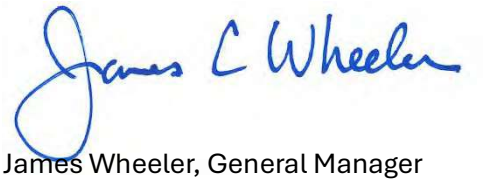
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Sacramento Area Sewer District



Greg Thomas, General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District



Chris O'Connor, Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Affairs
Associated General Contractors



Robert C. Ferrante, Chief Engineer & General Manager
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts



Lance Eckhart, General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency



Tim Ogden, General Manager
Cosumnes Community Services District

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Liz Ortega, California State Assembly

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 418 (Wilson): Property taxation: tax-defaulted property**
As amended 3/17/25 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 418 by Assembly Member Lori Wilson, a measure that preserves the ability of California counties to utilize Chapter 8 sales of tax-defaulted properties. These sales are used to dispose of challenging properties or to facilitate the development of affordable housing or other local agency uses; AB 418 ensures that the owners of such properties are able to participate in an administrative process if they disagree with the tax sale value established by the tax collector and proposed for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

This important measure seeks to address the 2023 Supreme Court decision *Tyler v Hennepin County, Minnesota*, in which the plaintiff's constitutional rights were violated when Hennepin County auctioned her tax-defaulted property to satisfy the delinquent property tax debt of $15,000. The property sold for $40,000 and the County kept the remaining $25,000 in excess proceeds without first affording the plaintiff the opportunity to file a claim for the excess proceeds. The Court found that the taking of the excess proceeds violated the Takings Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment.

Unlike the laws in Minnesota, California's laws require that if a property is sold at a tax auction, any proceeds from the auction that remain after all delinquencies are paid are then made available to parties of interest (i.e. the owner) of that property, and those parties have one year to file a claim for those excess proceeds. Under current law, a county is prohibited from depriving a property owner of their excess proceeds without first providing public notice and certified mailing to the last known address, notifying the owner of the existence of excess proceeds and of the one-year timeframe to file a claim.

In California, there are thousands of tax-defaulted properties that hold little to no value or otherwise present specific or unusual challenges to dispose of through a traditional tax auction. Using a Chapter 8 tax sale process to dispose of such properties can make the most sense for the local agency and for the property owner. AB 418 outlines a procedure by which California's county tax collectors will utilize during the Chapter 8 sale process to ensure that the property is disposed of in a manner that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps, which include a hearing before the Board of Supervisors where a party of interest may present evidence to dispute the tax sale price, offers an administrative process for property owners, while preserving the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize available options to manage those properties for which appraisals are not financially feasible.

AB 418 ensures that counties can effectively conduct Chapter 8 sales without the threat of litigation and Public Records Act requests that have recently been associated with these sales. The bill not only contains costs at the county level but ensures the fair collection and allocation of taxes for all local taxing entities. As a result, our associations strongly support this measure to address the uncertainty that currently exists and resolve this issue in a manner that ensures fairness and efficiency.

We respectfully request your most positive consideration of AB 418.

Sincerely,





Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly

September 12, 2025

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

RE: AB 538 (Berman): Public works: payroll records
As enrolled September 10, 2025 – VETO Request

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) **respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill (AB) 538** when it arrives at your desk. This bill would place an unnecessary burden and impose new reimbursable costs on local agencies.

Current law requires contractors and subcontractors for public works projects to maintain payroll records for all workers employed as part of a public works project. Current law also requires that a certified copy of those records be made available upon request from the public to either a body awarding the contract (e.g. a county, city, or school) or by the Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement (DLSE). Current law empowers DLSE, not awarding bodies, to penalize contractors or subcontractors for failing to respond to a records request by either an awarding body or DLSE. Despite this reality, the bill **only** requires local agencies to seek out records not in their possession and lacks any language to compel the only body with enforcement powers, DLSE, to seek out the records.

Additionally, Section 2 incorrectly declares that the bill is not a reimbursable state mandate, asserting that the only costs incurred by a local agency or school district will be due to changes to a crime or infraction. We disagree. While the proposed amendment to Labor Code § 1776 (b)(4) provides that non-compliant contractors shall have progress payments withheld in accordance with the existing penalty established in Labor Code § 1776(h), it is clear that the adjustment to how penalties may be assessed are not the *only costs that may be incurred by a local agency*. The bill clearly mandates a new activity by local

agencies: seeking records from a public works contractor or subcontractor when the local agency is not in possession of those records, redacting those records, and providing them to the requesting entity. These costs can be significant even for a single agency. This bill would apply to all 58 counties, all 483 cities, and the thousands of special districts and school districts. Taken together, the bill represents a significant reimbursable state mandate that will have impacts on an already limited state budget.

Additionally, the provisions relied upon for this incorrect assumption (Gov. Code, § 17556, subd. (g)), is itself constitutionally suspect. The State's subvention requirements and exemptions to those requirements are established by the California Constitution (Cal. Constit., art. XIIIB, § 6.) As relevant here, that provision only exempts from the subvention requirement "legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime." Section 17556(g) goes beyond the constitutional exemption from the subvention requirement by including the provision relied upon by the author here: a change in the penalty for a crime or infraction.

In addition to local costs, the bill would directly cost the state $876,000 in the first year and $828,000 ongoing for implementation by DLSE.

In closing, we believe this bill unnecessarily adds to the administrative burdens of local agencies at a time when their resources are being further stretched due to increasing state mandates, emergency response, and federal uncertainty.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, Cal Cities, and CSDA remain in opposed and respectfully request that you **veto AB 538**. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org

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



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



Damon Conklin
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities
DConklin@calcities.org



Anthony Tannehill
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association
anthonyt@csda.net

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office
Luke Reidenbach, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

AB 538 (Berman): Public works: payroll records OPPOSE

The above organizations respectfully urge your **"NO" vote** on AB 538 (Berman).

- **AB 538 requires local agencies to seek out records not in their possession and lacks any language to compel the only body with enforcement powers, the Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement (DLSE), to seek out those records.** Current law requires contractors and subcontractors for public works projects to maintain payroll records for all workers employed as part of a public works project. Current law also requires that a certified copy of those records be made available upon request by either a body awarding the contract (e.g. a local agency) or by Current law empowers DLSE, not awarding bodies, to penalize contractors or subcontractors for failing to respond to a records request by either an awarding body or DLSE.

- **The bill is a reimbursable state mandate**. The bill language asserts that the only costs incurred by a local agency will be due to changes to crime or infraction. We disagree. The adjustment to how penalties may be assessed are not the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency. The bill clearly mandates a new activity by local agencies: seeking records from a public works contractor or subcontractor when the local agency is not in possession of those records, redacting those records, and providing them to the requesting entity. Redaction in particular is expensive for local agencies, costing thousands in staff time. This measure unnecessarily adds to the administrative burdens of local agencies at a time when their resources are being stretched due to increasing state mandates, emergency response, and federal uncertainty.

- **The provisions relied upon for this incorrect assumption (Gov. Code, § 17556, subd. (g)), is itself constitutionally suspect.** The State's subvention requirements and exemptions to those requirements are established by the California Constitution (Cal. Constit., art. XIIIB, § 6.) As relevant here, that provision only exempts from the subvention requirement "legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime." Section 17556(g) goes beyond the constitutional exemption from the subvention requirement by including the provision relied upon by the author here: a change in the penalty for a crime or infraction.

For more information, please contact Eric Lawyer (elawyer@counties.org)

September 12, 2025

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

RE: AB 607 (Rodriguez): CalWORKs Home Visiting Program
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to urge your signature of Assembly Bill 607 by Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez, related to Home Visiting Programs (HVPs).

Specifically, AB 607 will ensure that participants in a voluntary evidence-based home visiting program receive the full array of benefits by being able to participate through the HVP model's intended duration. The bill does not cost any additional money as participating counties retain their ability to limit participation in the program and existing law states that the services are not entitlement services. Rather, the bill clarifies the population eligible for the funding provided in the annual state budget process.

Home Visiting Programs match trained professionals with expecting and new parents to help them with critical early development for their children. This includes offering resources, mentoring, cultural community building, and other supports that utilize parent's strengths and build skills. Research shows that participation in an HVP has immense benefits to children under 2 years old and their families, such as better maternal and infant health, reduced emergency room visits, and increased safety practices. Long term, for children who participate to age 5, research shows improved language and cognitive development, improved math and reading scores, reduced absenteeism, and decreased school suspensions. For every dollar invested in HVPs, communities receive a benefit of up to five dollars in savings in child welfare, K-12 education, and community safety.

Voluntary evidence-based home visiting programs (such as Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start Home-Based Option) are backed by decades of research demonstrating that they improve outcomes for both parents and children in myriad ways. There are 24 nationally recognized home visiting models, of which at least six are in use in the CalWORKs HVP. These programs can generate public savings by increasing healthy births, boosting positive parenting practices, reducing child maltreatment, and increasing family self-sufficiency in the forms of adult educational attainment, career training and employment.

This bill will help to maximize the health and developmental benefits of this highly effective program for families in need across the state. For these reasons, UCC and RCRC respectfully urge your signature of AB 607. Please do not hesitate to have your staff reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: The Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, Member, California State Assembly
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

August 20, 2025

The Honorable David Alvarez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 610 (Alvarez) Housing element: governmental constraints: disclosure statement.**
REMOVAL OF OPPOSITION *(As amended July 17, 2025)*

Dear Assemblymember Alvarez,

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the American Planning Association California Chapter (APA CA), we write to remove our opposition to Assembly Bill 610, as amended on July 17. We appreciate your willingness to work with our organizations to address our concerns with this legislation.

If you have any questions, please Brady Guertin (Cal Cities) at bguertin@calcities.org, Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at trhine@rcrcnet.org, Chris Lee (UCC) at clee@politicogroup.com, Lauren De Valencia y Sanchez (APA CA) at lauren@stefangeorge.com, or Mark Neuburger (CSAC) at mneuburger@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Brady Guertin
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
Cal Cities

Reuben Duarte
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate, RCRC

Christopher Lee
Legislative Advocate, UCC

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate, CSAC

September 12, 2025

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

Re: **AB 699 (Stefani): Elections: local tax measures.**
As enrolled – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties and the Urban Counties of California, we write to request your signature on Assembly Bill 699, which will allow local governments to refer voters to the county voter information guide for detailed tax rate and bond debt repayment information rather than requiring the lengthy and confusing information text directly on the ballot. This would increase transparency by giving more information to voters for local bond and tiered-rate tax measures.

Current law requires counties to include very specific financial and technical information in each 75-word ballot label, including the amount of money raised annually by the tax and the rate and duration of the tax. However, the 75-word limit can be too restrictive for accurately and clearly summarizing complex tax and bond measures, which can lead to voter confusion and misinterpretation of the proposals.

AB 699 would improve ballot transparency for local bond and tax measures, giving voters more information about how the measures would affect their taxes. The provisions of this bill would allow local governments to do this by directing voters to the county voter information guide and then providing detailed information about the measure's effects on taxes in the voter guide.

This bill would not only give local governments the alternative to remove the confusing language currently required, but it would also give them the opportunity to provide more, and clearer, information in the county voter guide so voters can make informed decisions.

For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 699 and respectfully request your signature. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

CC: The Honorable Catherine Stefani, California State Assembly
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office
Brady Borcherding, Deputy Legislative Secretary California Governor's Office

September 10, 2025

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

RE: AB 836 (Stefani): Midwifery Workforce Training Act
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to urge your signature of Assembly Bill 836 by Assembly Member Stefani, which is related to midwifery education.

Specifically, AB 836 would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), upon appropriation from the Legislature, to administer funding for a statewide study on midwifery education. Additionally, the bill would require the study to be conducted by an outside consultant familiar with the health care and midwifery landscapes and workforce in California that would, among other things, identify viable education programs that can serve both rural and urban geographic areas.

The shortage of health professionals in California, and particularly the rural areas of the state, has been a persistent concern for many years, and has become more acute in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the aging of the health care workforce. Rural areas with smaller populations that are farther from urban centers often have the lowest supply of health professionals per capita. Further, rural California does not have a high concentration of the four-year universities needed for graduate degree health professionals. Health care workforce shortage problems are not isolated to rural areas. The Inland Empire and the Central Valley are two of the fastest growing regions in California, and they are the two areas that have the lowest per capita health workforce. It's also a challenge to recruit and retain people in the Central Valley and Inland Empire that reflect the diversity and language capabilities of these regions.

Rural and underserved urban communities around California face a severe lack of access to reproductive health and maternity care. Between 2014 to 2024, more than 50 maternity units closed throughout the state. Midwifery care has demonstrated excellent clinical outcomes, but they are underutilized and can be mobilized to help address provider shortages. California currently only has one nurse-midwifery program accepting students: the California State University Fullerton master's degree in nurse-midwifery. There are currently no licensed midwife programs in California. To fill the state's needs, midwifery education should aim to serve parts of the state with

the most significant provider shortages and maternity care needs. AB 836 would expand the conversation about health care workforce to examine viable paths for midwife education, which would benefit rural and urban areas of California.

For these reasons, UCC and RCRC respectfully urge your signature of AB 836. Please do not hesitate to have your staff reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Member, California State Assembly
Paula Villescaz, Legislative Deputy, Office of the Governor

SENATE F L O O R A L E R T

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan): Automated decision systems.

As amended September 5, 2025 – OPPOSE

The above organizations respectfully urge you to **VOTE NO** on AB 1018. Even with the recent amendments to narrow the scope of the bill, it will impose significant operational and financial burdens on local governments that could hinder our ability to deliver essential services and ultimately discourage the use of tools that can improve access and government efficiency.

- **Broad Scope Raises Implementation Concerns.** The broad scope and definitions used in AB 1018 could encompass routine administrative tools used in everyday operations, including tools related to hiring, employee scheduling and training and development, certain case management systems, and other government benefits and services. These tools are essential for improving efficiency and service delivery, especially as local governments are increasingly tasked with doing more with fewer resources. The bill's broad application risks forcing local governments to abandon effective systems or simply decide not to implement new tools, slowing innovation and impeding public service.

- **Significant Compliance Obligations Cost Time and Money.** AB 1018 imposes significant and costly new compliance obligations, without providing funding or implementation support, and requires these activities to be completed within a timeframe that is not feasible for implementation. The costs are difficult to estimate but are likely to be substantial depending on a variety of factors, including the number of systems that meet the definitions in the bill, whether those systems require updates or need to be replaced, and the workload needed to implement the bill.

- **Appeals Process Could Be Duplicative.** The appeals provisions may duplicate existing appeal and redetermination processes, including in the criminal justice system, certain government benefits and services, and in public employment contexts where collective bargaining agreements already provide mechanisms for appealing personnel decisions. Overlaying the new appeal rights included in AB 1018 could create confusion, workload redundancy, and legal uncertainty.

- **Concerns about the Impacts on Future Use of ADS and AI Technology.** Local governments are on the forefront of developing and adopting policies that establish practices for the secure, ethical, effective, and responsible use of AI. The bill's broad scope, significant implementation requirements, and substantial cost will place a significant strain on limited local budgets, potentially hindering their ability to adopt and benefit from these technologies.

Vote NO on AB 1018.

For more information, please contact Emma Jungwirth, California State Association of Counties: ejungwirth@counties.org

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
Chair, Senate Labor, Public Employment & Retirement
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1048 (Chen) – Contract Disputes / Independent Bill Review
OPPOSE, AS AMENDED SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Dear Senator Smallwood-Cuevas,

The undersigned organizations respectfully **OPPOSE AB 1048, as amended September 5, 2025**. Our organizations represent a broad base of California's public and private sector employers, insurers and medical networks that have an interest in workers' compensation and advocate for a balanced workers' compensation system that provides injured workers with fair benefits, while keeping costs low for employers.

Prior to the most recent amendments, AB 1048 required contract disputes between providers and payers in the workers' compensation system to be adjudicated through the Independent Bill Review (IBR) process. Our coalition opposed that policy for a variety of reasons but tried to collaborate with the author and sponsor to craft more workable alternatives and even delivered amendments that would have removed most if not all opposition. Unfortunately, the September 5th amendments take the bill in an entirely new direction that has not been heard by a policy committee in either house and has not had sufficient analysis or time for stakeholder input.

<u>How Billing Works in Workers' Compensation</u>
Providers in the workers' compensation system do not bill for services at the rate dictated by the Official Medical Fee Schedule (the OMFS is a standardized schedule of payment rates for services established by the Division of Workers' Compensation through regulations) or at their contracted network rates. They instead bill at their "usual and customary" rate and then claims administrators must accurately adjust those bills to reflect the OMFS and/or applicable contracts. When the adjustment is done and payment is made, an Explanation of Review (EOR) is delivered to the provider explaining the adjustments to fee schedule or contracted network rate.

The underlying issue being addressed in AB 1048 is that disputes arise about the adjustment of the bills in this process. Providers are sometimes unclear about the various network contracts they have signed and do not keep copies of the associated documents. It is also true that claims administrators and bill reviewers sometimes make incorrect adjustments. If there is a dispute over the proper adjustment of the OMFS, then the IBR process is the right venue. If there is a dispute over a contracted rate, then the dispute resolution provisions within that contract provide a remedy.

Problems with AB 1048 Amendments

AB 1048 is trying to help providers understand more clearly when a contracted rate applies. The bill requires the EOR sent to providers to include specific information about the underlying contract relied upon to justify the payment level. The bill also requires the EOR to include an address and phone number for a person that the provider can contact to get a copy of the applicable contract. If that contract is not provided within 30 business days, then payment must be automatically made at the OMFS amount instead of the discounted contract rate.

While we oppose AB 1048 in its current form, we do think our concerns can be resolved and the bill can be balanced with more time and stakeholder engagement. We are not opposed to providing a method by which providers can receive a copy of the applicable contract. In fact, we have proposed a version of this same policy, but the approach taken in AB 1048 creates new problems:

- **Creates Loophole Allowing Providers to Get Around Mutually Agreed Upon Terms of a Contract -** As drafted the bill would allow providers to request a copy of the contract with every EOB, understanding that untimely delivery of the contract would invalidate their contracted discount and give them a higher payment. Providers in the workers' compensation system are highly educated and intelligent professionals who do not need the protection of the state with regards to these mutually agreed upon contracts.

  Unfortunately, there are some providers in the workers' compensation system who have a long and storied history of relentlessly exploiting narrow administrative loopholes for financial gain. Just in the last decade the legislature has had to address widespread abuse in drug repackaging, spinal surgery implant reimbursements, and even the mundane lien process. We expect that a small but impactful number of doctors will relentlessly abuse this loophole if implemented in its current form. This will result in higher costs for the system, which means higher workers' compensation premiums for all employers in California. On the other side, the sponsors have presented one anecdotal story but have no industry-wide data to show a need AB 1048 in its current form.

- **The Penalty is Inappropriate –** Providers sign contracts to serve network patients at a discounted rate because they benefit from the steady stream of patient referrals. They have a duty to track their own contractual relationships and understand the agreements they have made. While we do not mind sending these providers copies of the contracts they've entered, we don't think we should be financially penalized for late delivery of legal documents these providers should already have. Moreover, those providers have already received the benefit of the bargain under their contracts (e.g., steerage of injured workers to the provider as part of an MPN) and are now trying to eliminate their obligations under the contract (i.e., the discount).

- **Allows Unlimited Copies of Contracts –** As drafted, a provider could request a copy of the same contract repeatedly without limitation. There is no reason that networks should be required to provide repeat copies of contract to providers who in fact already have them. We

propose limiting providers to one copy of each contract to which they are a party in each calendar year. This would keep requests at a reasonable volume and prevent a small number of providers from abusing the system.

While we unfortunately **OPPOSE AB 1048** in its current form, we do believe that stakeholders can reach agreement if given more time. The floor amendment deadline is looming, and the September 5th amendments are a functional gut and amend that has not been analyzed or heard by the policy committee of jurisdiction in either house with five days left in session. We respectfully urge your "no" vote in committee so stakeholders can have more time to come to an agreement.

Sincerely,

Laura Curtis, American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Faith Borges, California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
Ashley Hoffman, California Chamber of Commerce
Jason Schmelzer, California Coalition on Workers' Compensation
Jeff Rush, California Powers Insurance Authority
Benjamin Ebbink, California League of Food Producers
Eric Lawyer, California State Association of Counties
Jen Hamelin, Public Risk, Innovation, Solutions, and Management
Leilani Aguinaldo, Schools Excess Liability Fund
Jean Hurst, Urban Counties of California
Lisa Anne Hurt-Forsythe, American Association of Payors, Administrators and Networks

CC: Legislative Unit, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Department of Industrial Relations

September 13, 2025

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

RE: AB 1288 (Addis and Valencia) Registered environmental health specialists – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and Urban Counties of California (UCC), we write to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1288, authored by Assembly Members Addis and Valencia. This measure will strengthen California's environmental health workforce and ease some of the recruitment and retention challenges currently facing local health/environmental departments.

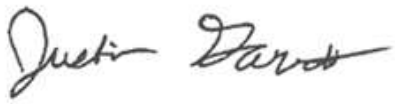
Currently, certification for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) program is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The program ensures that a certified REHS has met adequate education, training and experience requirements and has passed a comprehensive state examination. While working towards certification, individuals may be employed as a REHS trainee by local health/environmental health departments for up to three years. However, limited examination offerings and strict time limitations governing how often a trainee may take the exam have resulted in trainees being reassigned or released – even if they wish to continue to pursue a career as a certified REHS. The current state examination passage rate averages around 60 percent.

AB 1288 will expand opportunities for entry-level employees to continue their careers within local health departments by extending the time in which local health/environmental health departments may train and employ a local REHS trainee from three years to five years. The measure also includes provisions to strengthen and facilitate the process to become an REHS trainee, allow them to successfully complete their trainee period, and allow more opportunities to take the certification test.

The REHS plays a critical role in safeguarding our communities, and recent public health emergencies and climate-driven disasters have only increased counties' need for a strong REHS workforce. AB 1288 will aid counties in addressing ongoing recruitment and retention challenges currently impacting the public health workforce and expand opportunities for entry-level employees to continue advancing their careers within their own communities.

For these reasons, our organizations respectfully request your signature on AB 1288. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,



Justin Garrett
Interim Chief Policy Officer
CSAC
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



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



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

cc: The Honorable Dawn Addis, California State Assembly
The Honorable Avelino Valencia, California State Assembly
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

SENATE FLOOR ALERT
AB 1331 (Elhawary) - Workplace Surveillance.
As Amended – August 29, 2025 – OPPOSE

On behalf of a broad coalition of local agency and school associations, we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on Assembly Bill 1331 (Elhawary).**

AB 1331 will impose significant **costs and complexity while undermining safety** for public agencies, requiring rapid compliance audits, changes to hardware and software, and subjecting agencies to fines for noncompliance.

One stated purpose of the bill is to protect the ability for employees to unionize. Public workforces are already protected by robust state laws for the right to unionize and discuss union matters at the workplace.

AB 1331 will **remove or restrict essential tools that protect our workforce and the public we serve**. As defined, this bill includes any device or system that collects or facilitates the collection of worker activities, communications, or actions. These include routine security tools like cameras, ID badges, or key fobs, and basic office tools like email and Microsoft Teams.

These tools are used for critical security purposes that protect sensitive populations, prevent workplace violence incidents, uphold election validity, and keep students, educators, and other public employees safe.

AB 1331 will compromise safety and protection of public resources while imposing significant costs, administrative burdens, and legal liabilities.

Vote NO on AB 1331

For more information, contact Eric Lawyer, California State Association of Counties: (elawyer@counties.org)

September 17, 2025

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

RE: AB 1400 (Soria) Community colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and Urban Counties of California (UCC), we write to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1400 by Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria. This measure would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a pilot program to allow up to 10 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The shortage of health professionals in California, and particularly in rural areas of the state, has been a persistent concern for many years, and has become more acute in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the aging of the health care workforce. Rural areas with smaller populations that are farther from urban centers often have the lowest supply of health professionals per capita. Further, rural California does not have a high concentration of the four-year universities needed for graduate degree health professionals; however, often these communities have access to community college programs. These problems are not isolated to rural areas. The Inland Empire and the Central Valley are two of the fastest growing regions in California, and they are the two areas that have the lowest per capita health workforce. It's also a challenge to recruit and retain people in the Central Valley and Inland Empire that reflect the diversity and language capabilities of these regions.

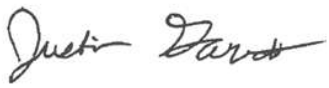
A study released in 2023 by the Healthforce Center at the University of California, San Francisco, which examines the healthcare workforce landscape in rural and the County Medical Services program (CMSP) counties, found that the Imperial Valley (Imperial), North Central region (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama), and the San Joaquin Valley (Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare) sub-regions have the lowest ratios of RNs per capita in the state. Statewide estimates show California faces a shortage of about 36,000 licensed nurses.

California's current healthcare workforce development apparatus is not equipped to handle the growing nursing needs of the state, especially in disadvantaged communities and in rural parts of the state. While California's Community College system does offer associate degrees in nursing, the needs of the healthcare workforce more frequently demand a bachelor's degree. This level of degree is exclusive in California to private institutions that are prohibitively expensive, or to the University of California and the California State University systems which have limited capacity and difficulty serving areas of the state with the highest need.

In order to meet our nursing workforce needs and extend these career opportunities to Californians throughout the state, we must expand the role of our community college system. AB 1400 will take the first step in this process by allowing a limited number of community college districts to expand their nursing programs to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This will expand the access and affordability of these degrees and will demonstrate how these offerings might be further expanded to additional community college districts.

For these reasons, our organizations respectfully request your signature on AB 1400. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,



Justin Garrett
Interim Chief Policy Officer
California State Association of Counties
jgarrett@counties.org
916-698-5751



Sarah Dukett
Senior 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

cc: The Honorable Esmeralda Soria, California State Assembly
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

September 11, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1430 (Bennett): County recorders: fees**
As amended 3/17/25 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

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 respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1430, a measure that updates and modernizes the statutory fees for county recorders' services. Across the state, county recorders provide important public services and serve as the custodian of vital records, recorded land documents, and other legal documents that support the integrity of property ownership and other legal transactions.

County recorders' offices operate on a fee-for-service basis; however, their fees are outlined in statute with maximum amounts that were set in 2009. The current fee structure disregards cost increases and changes in real estate transactions, resulting in some county recorders requiring additional county general fund resources to maintain operations.

AB 1430 updates the maximum fee a county recorder may charge for recording the first page of a document from $10 to $15 and additional pages from $3 to $4. These adjustments that are proposed are consistent with relative increases in the Consumer Price Index and still must reflect cost recovery. Further, AB 1430 requires that the fees collected are dedicated to, and solely utilized for, the county recorder's office, and prohibits the fees from exceeding the reasonable costs of the document recording function. While counties generally would prefer flexibility in directing such fees, the county recorders' offices fees are so woefully out of date, we recognize the utility of such a provision.

AB 1430 is an important measure to ensure that services provided by county recorders' offices are not subsidized by the general public through a reasonable update to statutory maximum fees. For these reasons, we respectfully request your signature on AB 1430.

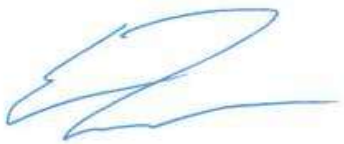
Sincerely,



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



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



Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org

cc: The Honorable Steve Bennett, California State Assembly

HOAC

CHEAC
Improving the Health of all Californians

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

0

CPCA ADVOCATES

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

CAPH CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS & HEALTH SYSTEMS

California Hospital Association

Children Now

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION COALITION

california pharmacists association

California Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE®

Planned Parenthood® Act. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

cda California Dental Association

CSNO

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

PSR SF BAY CHAPTER

SEIU California Stronger Together

Cal PACE Community Leaders for California's Seniors

WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY

URBAN COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA

Visión y Compromiso™

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

California Nurses Association
A Voice for Nurses. A Vision for Health Care.

Senate/Assembly Bill 144 (Trailer Bill) – As Amended 9/9/2025

Position: Support

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of the provisions of **Senate/Assembly Bill 144** that ensure Californians continue to have access to life-saving vaccines according to evidence-based standards by

updating insurance coverage requirements and other laws related to vaccination.

Our organizations have been some of the state's leading voices in public health, particularly in advancing access to vaccines. Vaccines are safe, effective, and among the most powerful tools we have to prevent disease and protect communities. We support this effort to make sure that insurance continues to cover vaccines according to evidence-based recommendations, something that is essential for patient access across the state.

Recent changes at the federal level raise questions about whether federal vaccination recommendations, upon which insurance coverage is predicated, will continue to follow the well-established science that shows vaccination is safe and effective at protecting people against disease. This bill ensures that the state laws on vaccination follow expert guidance.

To truly protect the health of Californians—especially children—we must take every possible step to safeguard continued access to safe and effective vaccines. This trailer bill does exactly that.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of these provisions in **SB/AB 144** and urge your **AYE** vote.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh
Health Officers Association of California

Michelle Gibbons
County Health Executives Association of California

Angela Hill
California Medical Association

Lisa Folberg
California Academy of Family Physicians

Jennifer Chase
University of California

Dennis Cuevas Romero
CPCA Advocates

Bryce Docherty
American Academy of Pediatrics California

Ryan Spencer
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Mark Farouk
California Hospital Association

Catherine Flores Martin
California Immunization Coalition

Courtney Armstrong
First 5 Association of California

Susan Bonilla
California Pharmacists Association

Beth Malinowski
SEIU California

Angela Pontes
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

Katie Rodriguez
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

Robert M. Gould, MD
San Francisco Bay Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Melissa Stafford Jones
Public Health Institute

Eric Dowdy
California Dental Association

Val Sheehan
CalPACE

Maria Lemus
Visión y Compromiso

Linda Nguy
Western Center on Law & Poverty

Mike Odeh
Children Now

Kelly Brooks Lindsey
Urban Counties of California

Justin Garrett
California States Association of Counties

Shari Coburn
California School Nurses Association

Carmen Comsti
California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Advancing Fair and Sustainable Transportation Funding for California

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

On behalf of our business, labor, local government and community members throughout California, we write to express our strong support for your efforts to identify and implement policy solutions that address the looming transportation funding crisis in a way that is fair, sustainable and accountable over the long term.

California's leadership in transitioning to fuel-efficient and zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) benefits the environment, but it's important to understand the consequence of more drivers using less gasoline. This means fewer drivers are paying their fair share of user-based fuel taxes that fund multimodal transportation improvements, resulting in a loss of approximately $31 billion over the next decade, according to the California Transportation Commission.

We applaud your efforts to explore new tools for funding California's multimodal transportation system as the state's current transportation funding system becomes increasingly unfair, unaffordable and unreliable.

As you and your colleagues in the Legislature work to address this critical issue, we respectfully encourage you to consider the following principles and priorities we view as critical to shaping a transportation funding policy that works for all Californians:

Fairness

Most Californians agree that all users of state and local roads should contribute their fair share to maintaining and improving the infrastructure they use. A fair and equitable transportation funding system ensures all drivers contribute their fair share to keeping our roadways in good repair. This includes maintaining a user-pay system, where the costs of transportation infrastructure are primarily covered by those who use it.

Economic Opportunity & Growth

Millions of Californians rely on the state's multimodal transportation system every day for access to economic opportunities, and the movement of goods and services people rely on. Transportation investments not only improve mobility for millions of residents but also create good-paying jobs and drive access to opportunity in communities across the state. Sustained investment in all modes of transportation is essential to maintaining California's status as the world's fourth-largest economy.

Public Safety

An effective transportation system keeps people and families safe. Reliable infrastructure enhances public safety by minimizing hazards that can cause collisions, ensuring timely access to emergency services, enabling evacuations during natural disasters and maintaining critical connectivity when Californians need it most. We must enhance roads and critical transportation infrastructure to protect Californians and the first our responders that help keep our communities safe.

Accountability

We support funding mechanisms that are transparent, data-driven and fiscally responsible. California's transportation future depends on policies that safeguard public trust and are practical and understandable. This includes strong constitutional protections that ensure revenues are used for their intended purposes, as well as independent audits, clear public reporting

and accessible public information about how funds are allocated and how they benefit communities.

Enduring Solutions

California needs forward-looking strategies that will ensure long-term sustainability. While fuel taxes served their purpose as a critical funding source for building and maintaining California's roads, highways, and transit systems, we need to prioritize new solutions that meet the needs of Californians today and in the future.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and stand ready to partner with you in advancing policies that build a better future for all Californians.

Sincerely,
The Fair Transportation Funding Coalition

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
James Hacker, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency
Dina El-Tawansy, Director, California Department of Transportation
Darnell Grisby, Chair, California Transportation Commission
Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Myles White, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom
Trey Reffett, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Transportation, Housing and Homelessness, Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom

James A. Thuerwachter
California State Council of Laborers

Matthew Cremins
International Union of Operating Engineers

Ron Rowlett
NorCal Carpenters Union

Jonathan Kendrick
California Chamber of Commerce

Kiana Valentine
Transportation California

Michael Quigley
California Alliance for Jobs

Jon Switalski
Rebuild SoCal Partnership

Mark Neuburger
California State Association of Counties

Damon Conklin
League of California Cities

Bill Higgins
California Association of Councils of Governments

Chris O'Connor
Associated General Contractors of California

Jim Wunderman
Bay Area Council

Daniel Conway
California Grocers Association

Rachel Michelin
California Retailers Association

Gus Flores
United Contractors

Carlos Gutierrez
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce

Ahmad Holmes
California African American Chamber of Commerce

Gema Gonzalez
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Carlos Gutierrez
California Advanced Biofuels Alliance

Robert Dugan
CA Construction and Industrial Materials Association

Tyler Munzing
American Council of Engineering Companies of California

Daniel Hartwig
California Fresh Fruit Association

Charlie Nobles
Southern California Contractors Association

Russell Snyder
California Asphalt Pavement Association

Anja Raudabaugh
Western United Dairies

Kirk Wilbur
California Cattlemen's Association

Christopher Lee
Urban Counties of California

Justin Caporusso
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

August 29, 2025

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

RE: Implementation of H.R. 1

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), we are writing to share the dramatic impacts to county health and human services programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. Thank you to your Administration for your work to begin examining the statewide impacts, including hosting recent webinars. Counties are eager to partner with you to mitigate the detrimental consequences of this legislation and preserve critical safety net services to the maximum extent possible.

As a result of the passage of H.R. 1, there will be clear and direct impacts on the low-income and vulnerable children, youth, families, and older adults that counties serve beginning right now and growing over the coming years.

Together, we will need to be mindful of the cascading impacts as we develop strategies to ensure the continuity of services. H.R. 1 affects counties and the communities that we serve in the following ways:

1. **Increased County Workload –** H.R. 1 expands work requirements for CalFresh, creates new work requirements for Medi-Cal, and increases the frequency and complexity of eligibility verifications for Medi-Cal. Counties are responsible for eligibility and enrollment in this state and are mandated to perform this work. Initial estimates indicate that the increased workload resulting from H.R. 1 will cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually within each program. Successful implementation will take additional staff resources, require new training, and depend on timely automation and IT changes.
2. **Direct Cost Shifts to Counties –** H.R. 1 reduces the federal share of CalFresh administration and Medi-Cal emergency services for certain patients, directly shifting these costs to the state and counties. For CalFresh administration, the federal share is reduced from 50% to 25% resulting in an increase of more than $200 million annually for counties. 1991 Realignment revenues are used to support county CalFresh administration costs, but this funding structure will not grow fast enough to assist counties with paying for these additional new administrative costs. Additionally, within the 1991 Realignment structure, CalFresh funding will also then compete for resources currently supporting other social services, health, and behavioral health programs. For Medi-Cal, H.R. 1 reduces the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for emergency services for childless adults with unsatisfactory immigration status from 90% to the state's FMAP floor (50% for California). Public health care systems, many of which are operated by counties, provide the non-federal share for the emergency services they provide in Medi-Cal for fee-for-service. As a result, the FMAP reduction will likely result in a direct loss of $88 to $229 million annually for county public hospitals and health care systems.
3. **Indirect Impacts and Strain on the Safety Net –** H.R. 1 reduces eligibility for Medi-Cal and CalFresh while also increasing and complicating the paperwork and other requirements to stay enrolled in the programs even when individuals are eligible. While additional federal and state guidance is forthcoming, it is possible that millions of Californians will lose coverage because of these changes. As individuals and families lose Medi-Cal coverage, their need for prevention, health care, and specialty behavioral health care services will persist and uninsured community members are likely to then turn to other programs, such as county public health, indigent health, and behavioral health safety net programs. These programs are not funded to handle such a large increase in uncompensated care and new cost pressures. County indigent programs have dramatically shrunk in size since implementation of the Affordable

Care Act. Additionally, 1991 Realignment funds that were available for indigent care have since been redirected to other programs under AB 85 (Statutes of 2013). Counties will need time and resources to scale up and expand indigent programs. Public health clinics have also scaled down over the years, as services like vaccinations and STD services became more widely available through Medicaid and other coverage expansions. Rebuilding that infrastructure will be essential to meet increased demand. Additionally, county hospitals anticipate seeing an increase in uncompensated care as the number of uninsured Californians increases, which will occur as other federal revenue sources decline under H.R. 1.

4. **Health Care Financing Restrictions –** State Directed Payments (SDPs) play a critical role ensuring access to quality health care for persons covered by Medi-Cal by supplementing low reimbursement rates. H.R. 1 imposes a cap on future SDPs and incrementally reduces existing SDPs to meet 100% of Medicare rates. California's public hospitals and health care systems estimate this phase down will result in a $2.3 billion annual net loss by 2032. Further, restrictions on provider taxes in California, including the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax, will also increase the fiscal pressures to Medi-Cal and other programs.

Simply put, counties do not have the ability to manage the increased workload, cost shifts, reduced funding, and new pressures on other county programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. The financial strain on counties will impact the people served by counties in our hospitals, clinics, behavioral health systems, public health departments, and social services safety net. Without additional resources, counties will be forced to drastically cut and eliminate programs and services, not just within health and human services, but across the full spectrum of county government including public safety, parks, and homelessness.

In addition to H.R. 1, counties are facing other fiscal and operational challenges. These include federal funding reductions and withholding of spending authority for various public health and behavioral health programs, significant reductions to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments to safety net hospitals which are scheduled to take effect in October, looming federal regulatory changes that may have significant financing implications, and the state eligibility and payment changes to Medi-Cal recently enacted in the 2025 Budget Act.

Counties are the backbone of the safety net system in California, providing services to vulnerable individuals and families on behalf of the state. It takes adequate funding and time for counties to hire, support, and retain the workforce that ensures that those in need get health care and food assistance as effectively as possible. For example, investments from the state to adequately fund CalFresh administration will help counties ensure individuals can efficiently receive and retain their benefits. This becomes even more significant with the

implementation of H.R. 1's CalFresh benefit cost sharing provision, as this can help reduce errors and in turn the amount that the state will owe for benefits. Strategic state investments to update systems and maintain critical functions will help mitigate the harms of H.R. 1 and help preserve California's health and social services infrastructure.

While H.R. 1 will loom over and impact state budget decisions and bills for the foreseeable future, it's critical to mitigate these distinct and direct impacts on counties to maintain safety net services for low-income and vulnerable Californians. We urge you to consider county needs in any mid-year budget action as well as the development of next year's budget, and include counties in the creation of any implementation plans or designs for operational efficiencies.

We look forward to continued discussions and further dialogue as additional information and guidance becomes available so that the H.R. 1 impacts can be further estimated and defined. Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,

Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Representative
UCC

Sarah Dukett
Senior Policy Advocate
RCRC

Carlos Marquez III
Executive Director
CWDA

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
CHEAC

Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA

Erica Murray
President & CEO
CAPH

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services
Jennifer Troia, Director, California Department of Social Services

August 29, 2025

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

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Implementation of H.R. 1

Dear Pro Tem McGuire and Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), we are writing to share the dramatic impacts to county health and human services programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. Thank you to the Legislature for your work to begin examining the statewide impacts, including hosting recent informational hearings. Counties are eager to partner with you to mitigate the detrimental consequences of this legislation and preserve critical safety net services to the maximum extent possible.

As a result of the passage of H.R. 1, there will be clear and direct impacts on the low-income and vulnerable children, youth, families, and older adults that counties serve beginning right

now and growing over the coming years. Together, we will need to be mindful of the cascading impacts as we develop strategies to ensure the continuity of services. H.R. 1 affects counties and the communities that we serve in the following ways:

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Simply put, counties do not have the ability to manage the increased workload, cost shifts, reduced funding, and new pressures on other county programs that will occur because of H.R. 1. The financial strain on counties will impact the people served by counties in our hospitals, clinics, behavioral health systems, public health departments, and social services safety net. Without additional resources, counties will be forced to drastically cut and eliminate programs and services, not just within health and human services, but across the full spectrum of county government including public safety, parks, and homelessness.

In addition to H.R. 1, counties are facing other fiscal and operational challenges. These include federal funding reductions and withholding of spending authority for various public health and behavioral health programs, significant reductions to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments to safety net hospitals which are scheduled to take effect in October, looming federal regulatory changes that may have significant financing implications, and the state eligibility and payment changes to Medi-Cal recently enacted in the 2025 Budget Act.

Counties are the backbone of the safety net system in California, providing services to vulnerable individuals and families on behalf of the state. It takes adequate funding and time for counties to hire, support, and retain the workforce that ensures that those in need get health care and food assistance as effectively as possible. For example, investments from the state to adequately fund CalFresh administration will help counties ensure individuals can efficiently receive and retain their benefits. This becomes even more significant with the implementation of H.R. 1's CalFresh benefit cost sharing provision, as this can help reduce errors and in turn the amount that the state will owe for benefits. Strategic state investments to update systems and maintain critical functions will help mitigate the harms of H.R. 1 and help preserve California's health and social services infrastructure.

While H.R. 1 will loom over and impact state budget decisions and bills for the foreseeable future, it's critical to mitigate these distinct and direct impacts on counties to maintain safety net services for low-income and vulnerable Californians. We urge you to consider county needs in any mid-year budget action as well as the development of next year's budget, and include counties in the creation of any implementation plans or designs for operational efficiencies.

We look forward to continued discussions and further dialogue as additional information and guidance becomes available so that the H.R. 1 impacts can be further estimated and defined. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
CSAC

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Representative
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Sarah Dukett
Senior Policy Advocate
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Carlos Marquez III
Executive Director
CWDA

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
CHEAC

Michelle Cabrera
Executive Director
CBHDA

Erica Murray
President & CEO
CAPH

cc: The Honorable Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore-Elect
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
The Honorable Dawn Addis, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair, Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
The Honorable Jesse Arreguín, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Alex Lee, Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

September 15, 2025

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

Re: Senate Bill 7 (McNerney) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Special Districts Association, California State Association of Counties, Urban Counties of California, Rural County Representatives of California, and Association of California Healthcare Districts, write to respectfully request your Veto of Senate Bill (SB) 7, which would complicate the routine work of local governments and health care, while increasing expenses, without a clear need.

SB 7 May Widely Apply to Many Technologies
We understand the reasonable concerns about the slow creep of new technologies into daily life. However, the scope of this bill is vast and would deem banal tools used for everyday work to be Automated Decision Systems (ADS) whose use could be covered by this bill. Given the bill's broad scope, the burdens from compliance are significant.

SB 7 is an Unfunded Mandate on State and Local Budgets
The initial and ongoing obligations required by this bill will burden local human resources and information technology departments, increasing costs and diverting them from their core responsibilities. Some small agencies and departments may struggle to comply with the bill's requirements. The bill's enforcement provisions expose local governments to increased litigation risk and costs. The bill also defines an "employer" subject to its provisions to also include all branches of state government (see Proposed Labor Code Section 1520(e)(1)). With the state and local agencies grappling with a substantial and growing decline in support from the federal government for a variety of programs and services, now is not the time for additional unfunded mandates, particularly without a clear need.

Applying SB 7 to Public Employers May Lead to Unintended Consequences
Local governments are responsible for operating and securing critical infrastructure, jails, hospitals, and police and fire departments, and may use ADS to support and enhance these functions. SB 7 would burden local government operations. For example, as the definitions are sweeping, health care providers using ADS for basic functions such as scheduling, billing, clinical recommendations, protecting patient safety through revealing drug theft or incorrect prescribing, and workplace safety initiatives, would trigger at least some of the bill's requirements related to pre-use notices and employer requirements, with escalating requirements if the system is primarily relied on to make a discipline, termination, or deactivation decision – a line which may not always be clear, but which is critical due to resulting notification and human review requirements. This significant shift will lead to increased costs to public health care providers at a time of funding instability, without a meaningful reason to do so. In addition, counties use ADS in a variety of ways, including for employee training and development and for scheduling. Meeting the requirements of this bill may prove challenging—particularly given the

current timelines, the complexity of overlapping requirements, and the potential need for costly system modifications. These challenges could place a significant strain on already limited county budgets. As a result, counties may be forced to temporarily rely on alternative—and potentially less efficient—methods to carry out routine tasks while working toward full compliance.

State law already prohibits local public employers from using workplace technology tools like ADS to deter or discourage union membership. Specifically, Government Code § 3550 provides that a public employer shall not deter or discourage public employees, or applicants to be public employees, from becoming or remaining members of an employee organization. Section 3551.5 imposes significant penalties for violations of § 3550 and grants employee organizations standing to bring the claims.

Recent Amendments Do Not Resolve Our Concerns

While recent amendments narrowed certain provisions of the bill, the amendments do not resolve our concerns about the potential impact of SB 7 on public agencies. The bill still contains significant noticing requirements, the application of which may not always be clear. While the bill's procedural requirements for employees to correct data have been removed, the bill requires the employer to provide, on request, a copy of the most recent 12 months of the worker's own data primarily used by an ADS to make a discipline, termination, or deactivation decision, once per year. Complying with, and potentially analyzing, these voluminous data requests will divert public resources from core responsibilities. We note also that the required pre-use notice still requires, among other things, a description of the worker's right to access and correct the worker's data used by the ADS, which is incongruous with other recent amendments. Rather than resolving concerns, the bill's recent amendment to include a Collective Bargaining Agreement exemption creates new problems by requiring that agreements address 'protections from algorithmic management' to qualify. As an example, in health care settings, this could be misinterpreted to place essential systems and tools—needed for core operations—into collective bargaining negotiations, potentially making their use incompatible with their intended purpose and undermining public health care delivery.

Put simply, for public employers, the burdens potentially imposed by this bill exceed any need.

For these reasons, our organizations must respectfully request a veto for SB 7. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or to further discuss our position.



Aaron Avery
Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association
aarona@csda.net



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
ejungwirth@counties.org



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



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



Sarah Bridge
VP, Advocacy & Strategy
Association of California
Healthcare Districts
sarah.bridge@achd.org

CC: The Honorable Jerry McNerney
Luke Reidenbach, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 7 (McNerney): Employment: automated decision systems

As amended 9/2/25 – OPPOSE

The above organizations, representing local public employers, respectfully urge your "no" vote on SB 7 (McNerney). We still have strong concerns about moving this measure forward, even with recent amendments that purport to limit the scope of the bill.

- **SB 7 May Widely Apply to Many Technologies.** Given the bill's broad scope, the burdens from compliance with its notification requirements are significant.

- **SB 7 is an Unfunded Mandate on Local Budgets.** The initial and ongoing obligations required by this bill will burden local human resources and information technology departments, increasing costs and diverting them from their core responsibilities. The same is true of the requirements around human review process. Some small agencies and departments will struggle to comply with the bill's requirements.

- **Applying SB 7 to Public Employers May Lead to Unintended Consequences.** Local governments are responsible for operating and securing critical infrastructure, jails, hospitals, and police and fire departments, and may use ADS to support and enhance these functions. SB 7 would burden local government operations. For example, as the definitions are sweeping, health care providers using ADS for basic functions such as scheduling, billing, clinical recommendations, protecting patient safety through revealing drug theft or incorrect prescribing, and workplace safety initiatives, would trigger at least some of the bill's requirements related to pre-use notices and employer requirements, with escalating requirements if the system is primarily relied on to make a discipline, termination, or deactivation decision – a line which may not always be clear. This significant shift will lead to increased costs to public health care providers at a time of funding instability, without a meaningful reason to do so.

- **Robust Protections Already in Place for Public Sector Employees.** For public employers with represented workforces, use of technology tools is often bargained between employees and public employers based on local conditions, security needs, and the concerns of the public workforce. State law already prohibits local public employers from using workplace technology tools like ADS to deter or discourage union membership (Gov. Code Section 3550). Rather than resolving concerns, the CBA exemption creates new problems by requiring that agreements address 'protections from algorithmic management.' In health care settings, this could be misinterpreted to place essential systems and tools—needed for core operations—into collective bargaining negotiations, potentially making their use incompatible with their intended purpose and undermining public health care delivery. Current law allows for appropriate bargaining, without this requirement or uncertainty.

- **Vote "NO" on SB 7.** SB 7 would complicate the routine work of local governments, while increasing expenses, without a clear need.

For more information, please contact Aaron Avery, California Special Districts Association: aarona@csda.net

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 7 (McNerney): Employment: automated decision systems

As amended 9/2/25 – OPPOSE

The above organizations, representing local public employers, respectfully urge your "no" vote on SB 7 (McNerney). We still have strong concerns about moving this measure forward, even with recent amendments that purport to limit the scope of the bill.

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- **Applying SB 7 to Public Employers May Lead to Unintended Consequences.** Local governments are responsible for operating and securing critical infrastructure, jails, hospitals, and police and fire departments, and may use ADS to support and enhance these functions. SB 7 would burden local government operations. For example, as the definitions are sweeping, health care providers using ADS for basic functions such as scheduling, billing, clinical recommendations, protecting patient safety through revealing drug theft or incorrect prescribing, and workplace safety initiatives, would trigger at least some of the bill's requirements related to pre-use notices and employer requirements, with escalating requirements if the system is primarily relied on to make a discipline, termination, or deactivation decision – a line which may not always be clear. This significant shift will lead to increased costs to public health care providers at a time of funding instability, without a meaningful reason to do so.

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- **Vote "NO" on SB 7.** SB 7 would complicate the routine work of local governments, while increasing expenses, without a clear need.

For more information, please contact Aaron Avery, California Special Districts Association: aarona@csda.net

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 72 (Caballero): The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets

SUPPORT

The undersigned organizations support SB 72 (Caballero). Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, an expanding economy, a growing population, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater, California needs to align the state's water supply strategy and policies with a target that will result in an adequate and reliable water supply for all beneficial uses including the environment, agriculture, the economy, and all Californians. Recent research estimates a shortfall in California's future water supply between 4.6 and 9 million acre-feet annually by 2050 if the state takes no action.

SB 72 will bring the fundamental changes that are necessary to ensure a sustainable water future. SB 72 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, including urban, agriculture, and the environment.
- 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.
- 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.

The California Water Plan is the strategic plan for managing and developing water resources for current and future generations in the state. SB 72 works within the structure of the current California Water Plan, which hasn't been meaningfully updated for decades. SB 72 updates the California Water Plan for a 21st century climate.

Vote "YES" on SB 72


CMUA
California Municipal Utilities Association
CSAC
WESTERN WATER
CalChamber
SWCLC Southwest California Legislative Council
CBIA California Building Industry Association
California Farm Bureau
League of California Cities
URBAN COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA
NFIB
California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together
CASA
CMTA
RebuildSoCal Partnership
MURRIETA/WILDOMAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ACWA
CWA
CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION
metro
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CITY OF COSONA
ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT
ELSINORE VALLEY
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
TEMESCAL VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
WESTERN GROWERS
SCV WATER
NCWA
BAYAREA COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA GRAIN & FEED ASSOCIATION
GROWER-SHIPPER ASSOCIATION
NORTH BAY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Friant WATER AUTHORITY
unitedag
El Dorado Irrigation District
CALIFORNIA APPLE COMMISSION
CALIFORNIA COTTON GINNERS AND GROWERS ASSOCIATION
CAFA California Alfalfa & Forage Association
wph Western Plant Health
CALIFORNIA STATE FLORAL ASSOCIATION
WAPA
California Blueberry Association
CALIFORNIA BEAN SHIPPERS
CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY COMMISSION
CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION
California Walnuts
MesaWater DISTRICT
Cucamonga Valley Water District
Service Beyond Expectation
California Seed Association
OLIVENHAIN Municipal Water District
CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
emwd
FOLSOM CHAMBER
Irvine Ranch Water District
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
TID WATER & POWER
WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
EAST BAY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
PACIFIC COAST RENDERERS ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of WINEGRAPE GROWERS
3V THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY
SAN JUAN WATER SINCE 1854
Valley Ag Water Coalition
Rancho Water WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
KRCD
LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Beldwater Somerset
CalDesal
California CITRUS MUTUAL
SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Santa Margarita Water District
Dublin CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SCWC
Mammoth Lakes CALIFORNIA
SWC
Valley Water
BREA CHAMBER
Agricultural Council of California
MWDOC
PVD
Monte Vista Water District
KRWA
Biz Fed Los Angeles County Business Federation
Jurupa COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
RUBIDOUX DISTRICT
SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SAWPA
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
Hemet
BIA BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
bvn black voice news
CAMROSA WATER DISTRICT
West Valley Water District
CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
WATER AND POWER
CALIFORNIA FARM WATER COALITION
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE
CITY OF JURUPA VALLEY
CITY OF CANYON LAKE
CALIFORNIA HISPANIC CHAMBER of COMMERCE
INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting Industry and Protecting the Environment
IEA
CITRUS HEIGHTS CHAMBER
MURRIETA
GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
ONTARIO
United Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION Valley of Innovation
RIVERSIDE
HDR
MONDAY MORNING GROUP
SBA CC San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce
CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION
Southern California Rental Housing Association
SRCAR Promote | Protect | Empower
DESERT WATER
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
MID Modesto Irrigation District
PUENTE BASIN WATER AGENCY
WRD
CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION
ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY
RWA Regional Water Authority
MCWRA
UTICA
AED
MID-PENINSULA WATER DISTRICT
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ROSEVILLE CALIFORNIA
WATEREUSE CALIFORNIA
CWSA
American Water Works Association California-Nevada Section
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
CAG
SACRAMENTO
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Advocacy Fund
Westlands Water District

September 8, 2025

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

RE: Senate Bill 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE
As Amended July 2, 2025

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and Urban Counties of California (UCC), we respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas), which protects the confidentiality of personal reflections shared during bias mitigation training. This bill ensures that if a public employee shares or acknowledges personal bias as part of required training, that information does not, by itself, constitute unlawful discrimination and therefore cannot be used against them in a civil lawsuit.

SB 303 encourages open and honest participation in training by making sure employees can reflect without fear of legal consequences. At the same time, the bill still allows evidence of actual misconduct—like discrimination or harassment—to be used when necessary.

For these reasons, RCRC, CSAC and UCC respectfully request your signature on SB 303. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations' representatives directly.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dukett
Senior Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org

Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
elawyer@counties.org

Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
UCC
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com

cc: The Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Member of the California State Senate
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

September 3, 2025

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

Re: **SB 346 (Durazo): Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator**
As amended 7/07/25 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 346, Senator Durazo's measure that will strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals.

Regrettably, the application of local TOT ordinances and collection and remittance of taxes is inconsistent and often simply avoided, even when voluntary collection agreements are entered into. Because local agencies do not have access to the address or any other personally identifiable information for listed properties, even under voluntary collection agreements, cities and counties are in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes without this critical information and trusting that it is accurately collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is a time- and cost-intensive process that may or may not result in a fair application of local laws.

SB 346 promises to increase TOT compliance and ensure that local agencies are appropriately collecting tax revenue from those that are lawfully licensed short-term rental properties by authorizing a local agency to require the short-term rental facilitator to report the physical address of the short-term rental property and, if that information is insufficient for the local agency, additional identifying information. Further, such authority will assist local agencies in ensuring that TOT obligations are consistent among other short-term stay facilities, like hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts, and that those that profit from short-term rental properties are no longer able to obfuscate their location and therefore their tax obligations.

SB 346 is a much-needed effort to modernize California statute and provide local agencies the tools needed to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies. As a result, we respectfully urge your signature on SB 346.

Sincerely,





Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, California State Senate
Ben Triffo, League of California Cities
Karen Lange, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

September 12, 2025

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

RE: SB 413 (Allen) - Juveniles: case file inspection.
As enrolled September 10 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we respectfully request your signature on SB 413 (Allen), which will benefit both local agencies and plaintiffs with claims against local agencies by expediting access to relevant juvenile case records protected in the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). For local agencies and the courts, SB 413 will improve efficiency of proceedings and reduce costs by avoiding unnecessary court delays. Critically, the bill would maintain confidentiality protections for the juvenile case records.

WIC § 827 allows certain parties to access juvenile records, including court personnel, the minor who is subject to the proceeding, and the minor's parents, or guardian, among others. Parties not included in WIC § 827 must file a petition with a juvenile court to obtain access to records, a process that can delay proceedings for more than a year.

SB 413 would improve existing procedures for resolving claims against local agencies for both plaintiffs and defendants by:

- Saving counties, as well as child litigants suing counties, money;
- Expediting civil claims against counties (for everything from claims of child sexual assault to dangerous conditions);
- Clarifying the statute to reduce inconsistencies among counties and courts; and,
- Ensuring that juvenile records are handled with care and confidentiality.

First, this bill clarifies that the use of the term "county counsel" in subparagraph (a)(1)(F) applies to the county counsel attorneys who represent the child welfare agency or probation department in any capacity. Second, this bill ensures that attorneys representing parties in a government tort claim or civil action, where a local agency, child welfare agency, probation department, or their employees acting in their official capacity, are named, are entitled parties for the purpose of accessing juvenile records.

This proposal ensures plaintiffs who are filing claims against a county, the child welfare department, or the probation department obtain timely resolution of their claims. In addition to saving time, this proposal will reduce litigation costs by eliminating time-consuming, and costly WIC § 827 petition processes. And, importantly, it protects the confidentiality rights of minors by including very specific requirements for the care, handling, and ultimate destruction of the juvenile records.

SB 413 strikes the appropriate balance between the Code's presumption that juvenile records are unavailable to the public except under specified circumstances, and the need for county counsel and attorneys representing counties to access the files when counties are sued for damages by current or former wards and dependents.

For these reasons, our organizations are proud to support SB 413 (Allen) and respectfully request your signature. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Eric Lawyer (elawyer@counties.org), Jean Hurst (jkh@hbeadvocacy.com), or Sarah Dukett (sdukett@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,





Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org

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



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

CC: The Honorable Ben Allen, California State Senate
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite #8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 445 (Wiener) High-speed rail: third-party agreements, permits, and approvals: regulations**
OPPOSITION *(As Amended on 7/17/25)*

Dear Chair Wicks,

The local government associations listed above must express our continued shared **opposition** to SB 445 (Wiener), as amended on July 17, 2025. As representatives of local publicly owned utilities and public agencies writ-large (local agencies), we recognize the importance of critical transportation infrastructure, especially as the state seeks to decarbonize as quickly as possible to combat climate change. However, we have significant concerns with the new amendments to this bill, which would have major implications for public safety, costs, and the reliable provision of electric, water, and sewer service. The local agencies listed on this letter opposed the bill as amended on June 30, 2025, and continue to oppose the bill with the more recent amendments taken on July 9, 2025 and on July 17, 2025.

The newly amended SB 445 would give the High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) the ability to develop regulations to govern the relocation of utility infrastructure to deliver the high speed rail project. While this bill has been narrowed to focus on the high speed rail project specifically, there remain significant questions for local agencies on utility relocation costs, reliability challenges, granting new broad regulatory authority, the creation of a vague binding arbitration process, and the bad precedent this bill would set moving forward for governing public agency infrastructure.

Local agency permitting processes are not deliberately or arbitrarily standing in the way of delivering the high speed rail project in California. The permitting processes in place are there to ensure: 1) a project does not compromise our utility service, 2) the safety of our workers is maintained, and 3) our customers and taxpayers are not unduly bearing the cost of inappropriately relocating public infrastructure. The notion that a state entity, which has never had regulatory authority before, will have a better sense of our utility infrastructure and how to relocate it is incorrect. We are certainly happy and willing to have a conversation with the author's office and the sponsors on identifying what, if any, issues local agencies can work on to improve the permitting process. However, given the very tight timelines to review and provide meaningful comments on this bill, we are asking for more time to have a productive conversation.

We, as public agencies and the members we represent, appreciate the author's intent of this bill and many also support the development of sustainable transit projects, However, given the significant

implications of making this policy wrong, **we respectfully oppose SB 445 and request that it become a two-year bill**. Robust stakeholder meetings did not take place over the summer recess and thus local governments have not been able to have our outstanding issues addressed. Making this bill a two year will would afford us much-needed time to meet with the author and discuss how specific concerns could be addressed without threatening public safety and the provision of essential utility service.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact CMUA at (916) 827-7113 or ddolfie@cmua.org.

Sincerely,

Derek Dolfie
Director of Energy
California Municipal Utilities Association

Anthony J. Tannehill
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association

Damon Conklin
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities

Jessica Gauger
Director of Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Eric Will
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

Kylie Wright
Policy Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

Brenley McKenna
Managing Director
WateReuse California

Christopher Lee
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

September 16, 2025

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

RE: SB 485 (Reyes) – Appointment of County Public Defender
Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

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 to respectfully request your veto on SB 485, by Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes, which would fundamentally reshape the employment terms of appointed county public defenders.

SB 485 proposes to change the public defender's employment status from at-will to one in which removal may only occur by a majority vote of the local board of supervisors and only for neglect of duty, malfeasance, misconduct in office, or other good cause. While we understand and respect the underlying objective to ensure independence in this important role, we believe the bill lacks key structural safeguards. CSAC, UCC, and RCRC respectfully requested amendments that would have:

- Established a defined term of office such as the four-year term outlined in Government Code section 27640 for county counsel; and
- Set forth a clear process for judicial review should a public defender contest their removal from office.

These amendments, which were rejected, are rooted in principles of good governance, organizational consistency, and process clarity – standards that we would have sought to accompany statutory changes in the employment status for any appointed county department head. It is worth reiterating that counties' requested changes to SB 485 were not intended to – and would not in practice

– interfere with a public defender's constitutional obligation to provide clients with ethical and competent legal representation.

CSAC, UCC, and RCRC are concerned about the long-term implications of a perpetual appointment contemplated in the measure, given that the for-cause termination structure is not paired with a defined term of office, which is a feature that exists in the organizational design set forth in the Government Code for the county counsel. Our organizations remain concerned that – despite the recent addition of ineffectual legislative intent language – SB 485 would undermine routine performance oversight and a structured review process for the appointed public defender.

These additional elements are needed to ensure that all department heads are held to the same standards to meet their various responsibilities adequately. Public accountability is an essential element of county governance, and it is both reasonable and prudent to provide clear procedures in the event of a contested termination. If this measure is enacted as drafted, the public defender's employment status would be an outlier in the broader county organizational framework for non-elected department heads.

Lastly, counties question the concrete need for elevated employment protections for public defenders. No specific, documented examples to justify a change have been provided, raising legitimate concerns about the necessity of this bill. In fact, there are very few examples county counsel can draw from where the at-will authority has ever been exercised by a board of supervisors.

As organizations representing California's elected county supervisors, we respectfully request your veto on this measure given that it lacks essential governance safeguards and creates unwarranted inconsistencies across appointed county leadership positions.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this measure.

Respectfully,

Ryan Morimune
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC

Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Representative
UCC

Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, California State Senator
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

September 4, 2025

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 485 (Reyes) County public defender: appointment.
As Amended April 7, 2025 – OPPOSE

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) respectfully request a **'NO' vote** on Senate Bill (SB) 485 by Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes. SB 485 proposes to change the employment status of county public defenders from at-will to one in which removal may only occur by a majority vote of the local board of supervisors for neglect of duty, malfeasance, misconduct in office, or other good cause.

SB 485 lacks key structural safeguards

- While the author and sponsors mirrored the bill with employment protections for county counsel, they intentionally omitted a critical provision that provides a four-year term for performance evaluation. Our previous requests for this simple amendment, which would have created parity with county counsel and established reasonable and essential checks and balances, was rejected.

SB 485 sets a new precedent for appointed county department heads

- If this measure were enacted, the public defender's employment status would be an outlier in the broader county organizational framework for all non-elected department leaders. Maintaining consistency and comparability across all appointed county leadership positions is integral to the balance of government.

SB 485 is a solution in search of a problem

- Counties deeply value the vital role public defenders play in meeting counties' constitutional mandate. However, we question the need for elevated employment protections as no specific, documented examples to justify a change have been provided, raising legitimate concerns about the necessity of this bill. In fact, there are very few examples county counsel can draw from where the at-will authority was ever exercised by a board of supervisors.

As organizations representing California's elected county supervisors, we urge your consideration of our concerns, which are rooted in principles of good governance, organizational consistency, and process clarity – standards we would be seeking to accompany statutory changes for the employment status of ***any*** appointed county department head.

Counties urge a 'NO' vote on SB 485.

September 17, 2025

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

RE: SB 487 (Grayson) – Workers' Compensation Third Party Recovery
VETO REQUEST

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you **VETO SB 487 (Grayson)**, which would limit the right of local public agency employers to recover the cost of providing workers' compensation benefits when a law enforcement officer or firefighter is injured at work and a third party is partially or entirely responsible. Public safety officers enjoy generous salary continuation benefits, presumptions for several types of injuries and illnesses, and Industrial Disability Retirement (IDR) benefits that aren't available to any other type of worker in the state. As a result, state and local governments have a higher cost of providing workers' compensation benefits to police officers and firefighters, and recovering costs from responsible third parties is vitally important to protect public resources and the taxpayers.

No Data to Justify Proposed Policy

California has a strong history of closely examining proposed workers' compensation policy changes through the joint labor-management Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC). According to the CHSWC website, it was created in 1993

to examine health and safety and workers' compensation systems and recommend administrative or legislative modifications to improve their operation. In recent years, the legislature has often turned to CHSWC for answers when, much like with SB 487, they are confronted with proposed workers' compensation legislation that is based largely on anecdote instead of data. Unfortunately, SB 487 has undergone no such examination and suffers from myriad policy deficiencies as a result.

When an employee is injured by a third party during the course and scope of their employment, the employer, regardless of who is at fault, must provide full workers' compensation benefits. This includes all forms of disability, both temporary and permanent, any associated expenses and vocational rehabilitation if applicable. In addition, the employer is bound to provide medical treatment for the duration of that employee's life for the injured body parts or conditions. An example of an injury sustained at the fault of a third party is when a motor vehicle accident occurs outside of the employer's premises and outside of the employer's control. Regardless, the employer is still obligated to provide all statutory workers' compensation benefits to the employee. As such, the employer's only remedy for reimbursement of the costs incurred because of another party is via subrogation recovery.

The public sector entities affected by SB 487 have limited resources available to provide services to the public. If the legislature is going to upend well-established public policy related to third party subrogation, it should do so only after being fully informed. Proponents of SB 487 have not provided any objective evidence suggesting law enforcement and firefighters are frequently facing bad outcomes in third party litigation related to workplace injuries. The lack of data has resulted in a half-baked policy that applies only to local governments and not the State of California but will set a precedent that stakeholders will try and expand systemwide.

Special Benefits Mean Less Economic Harm for Workers and Higher Costs for Employers

The state and local government employers of police officers and firefighters have high workers' compensation costs precisely because their union representatives have lobbied endlessly for expensive special benefits designed to minimize the economic impact of workplace injuries.

Most employees who are unable to work because of their workplace injury are paid temporary disability benefits at a rate of 2/3 of their average weekly wage, with a maximum benefit amount of $1,680.29 per week in 2025. Instead of receiving normal temporary disability benefits, law enforcement and firefighters who are unable to work because of their workplace injury are paid their *full salaries tax free for an entire year* under Labor Code Section 4850. While it may be hard to believe, those who are receiving benefits under Labor Code Section 4850 take home more than when earning their normal salary. The special benefits both minimize the economic harm to the injured employee and cause the employer to have higher costs associated with the injury.

In addition, a law enforcement or firefighter who is hurt on the job and, as a result, is permanently unable to perform their current position is eligible for Industrial Disability Retirement. The base benefit for IDR is 50% of the final compensation amount, but it can get higher (3% for each year of service), *and the first 50% is non-taxable*. Depending on their tenure, law enforcement and firefighters with longer years of service can take home more

pay under IDR than they did while working because of the tax treatment. This amount is paid to the injured employee, in addition to permanent disability benefits paid under the workers' compensation system that are designed to compensate for physical impairment from the injury. Law Enforcement personnel and firefighters receiving IDR benefits are not precluded from working outside of their classification in other occupations, and working does not reduce the IDR benefit. As a result, many police officers and firefighters receiving IDR benefits are also gainfully employed.

Law Enforcement and firefighters already received costly special benefits that protect them from economic harms associated with injuries. The legislature should more closely examine the need to also allow these employees to recover from responsible third parties before their employer who has financed generous special benefits. Benefits paid to first responders come directly out of public agency budgets. State and local governments generally aren't covered by traditional insurance, rather are self-insured, so the costs associated with SB 487 will directly hit their budgets.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you **VETO SB 487 (Grayson)**. If you have any questions regarding our position, please reach out to Jason Schmelzer at either jason@SYASLpartners.com or 916.446.4656.

Sincerely,

California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
California Coalition on Workers' Compensation
California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Bell
City of Chula Vista
City of Corona
City of Santa Barbara
County of Butte
County of Fresno
County of Humboldt
County of Kings
County of Placer
Golden State Risk Management Authority
League of California Cities
Local Agency Workers' Compensation Excess JPA
Northern California Special Districts Insurance Authority
Public Risk, Innovations, Solutions, and Management
Rural County Representatives of California
School's Insurance Authority
Urban Counties of California

September 12, 2025

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

RE: SB 617 (Arreguín): California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act
As enrolled September 9, 2025 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counites (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we respectfully request your signature on SB 617, which would strengthen the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act by increasing information in Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) on dislocated worker assistance, CalFresh benefits, and promote coordination between employers and local service providers, including local workforce development boards (LWDBs).

Current state law mandates that certain employers notify employees subject to mass layoffs, as well as the Employment Development Department, the LWD, and elected officials within the city or county 60 days in advance via WARN letters. This proposal builds upon this foundation by expanding the notification to include the employers' plans to provide dislocated worker assistance and require information about CalFresh benefits, including the link to the CalFresh helpline and a link to the benefit website. Employers must declare their plan to offer services and provide contact information for both a company representative and the LWDB, as well as a list of free LWDB services. This ensures affected workers have immediate access to vital support upon notification and enables LWDBs to tailor their assistance effectively.

By providing this crucial information, we believe SB 617 will improve the efficacy of WARN notices and, more importantly, ease the challenging transition for displaced workers.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your signature on SB 617. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at elawyer@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



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



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

CC: The Office of the Honorable Jesse Arreguín, California State Senate
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office
Luke Reidenbach, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office

September 4, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 635 (Durazo): Food vendors and facilities: enforcement activities**
As amended 9/2/25 – Neutral

Dear Senator Durazo:

On behalf of the California Association of Environmental Health Administrators, the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, we write to share that we are NEUTRAL on Senate Bill 635 as recently amended. This bill as revised, will allow local governments to maintain effective local licensing and enforcement programs while protecting all Californians, including vendors.

Local agencies have expended significant resources to enact local licensing and enforcement programs that respect vendors, are low-cost, and facilitate compliance. We appreciate that the bill in print ensures that local agencies can preserve a licensing program for sidewalk and roadside food vending that protects the public's health and safety at a reasonable cost and secures the economic well-being of all food vendors in our community.

Sincerely,

Faith Borges
On behalf of CACEO

Jean Kinney Hurst
On behalf of UCC

Amanda Bloom
CAEHA

cc: Members of the California Assembly

September 15, 2025

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

RE: SB 707 (Durazo): Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements
As Enrolled September 13, 2025 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and Urban Counties of California (UCC) write in proud **support** of SB 707 (Durazo) and respectfully request your signature.

SB 707 would represent the most extensive changes to the Brown Act in decades, with a variety of changes designed to improve public participation in local government meetings, expand accessibility for both members of Brown Act bodies and the public, and includes several provisions that address the needs of local governments. In total, SB 707 represents a balanced approach in the modernization of the Brown Act.

It is often said that the definition of compromise is when no party is satisfied. However, there are reasons for everyone to be satisfied with this law, including:

- Improved accessibility for the public through remote participation provisions, agenda translation, accommodation of interpretation services, outreach provisions, and increased requirements for how agendas and meeting materials are displayed for the public;
- Improved accessibility for members of Brown Act bodies, including extension of the sunset dates for existing remote meeting options, new flexibility for advisory body members, new flexibility for multi-jurisdictional body members, clarification that remote disruption of meetings (e.g. "Zoombombing,") can be addressed, and expansion of emergency meeting provisions; and
- Accountability measures, including expanded requirements regarding reporting of closed session decisions for the compensation of department heads and administrative officers and additional restrictions on the use of special meetings for decisions on compensation for a legislative body.

We understand that local governments, including some of our member counties, have operational concerns and worries regarding fiscal impacts. While we share those concerns, we believe that the language in SB 707 represents cost-effective

means to radically increase civic participation and accommodation of those who do often participate in local meetings. This language is well balanced and represents the limits of new unfunded mandates we would be able to absorb given the state of local government budgets and the capacity of our workforce.

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are proud to support SB 707 and respectfully request your signature.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



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



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

cc: The Honorable Senator María Elena Durazo
Brady Borcherding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office
Christine Aurre, Legislative Secretary, California Governor's Office

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 707 (Durazo) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements
As Amended July 17, 2025 – SUPPORT

On behalf of a coalition of county associations, community college students, disability rights advocates, and public authorities, we are proud to support SB 707 and ask for your **AYE VOTE** on Senate Bill 707, which represents the most sweeping and ambitious modernization of the Brown Act in history.

SB 707 represents will update the Brown Act in a way that balances the concerns of local governments and government transparency advocates alike. SB 707 will:

- **Improve access** to local government meetings by requiring remote meeting participation for the public for county boards of supervisors, city councils, and some special district governing board meetings.
- **Expand participation** among underrepresented groups and communities by requiring agenda translations into other languages for the first time in the history of the Brown Act. SB 707 would also **require outreach to underrepresented groups**, establish the right for Brown Act body members with disabilities to participate in meetings remotely, and require accommodation of interpretation.
- **Heighten accountability** by expanding requirements for closed session personnel actions for officers and department heads and **restricting the use of special meetings** to discuss compensation of legislative body members.
- **Extend and improve** existing law for community college student board meetings, neighborhood council meetings, meetings held during emergencies, remote meeting participation for members, and rules for social media engagement.
- **Improves representation on local advisory bodies** by allowing new flexibility for members of non-decision-making bodies – but excludes elected members or bodies dedicated to police oversight, elections, privacy, budgets, or taxes.

Vote YES on SB 707

For more information, please contact Eric Lawyer, California State Association of Counties (elawyer@counties.org) or Sarah Dukett, Rural County Representatives of California (sdukett@rcrcnet.org).