



May 23, 2011

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The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our support for your budget framework, as outlined in the May Revision. In particular, counties support the realignment construct with funding secured through an extension of the 2009 increases in the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) rates and sales tax rates and the constitutional protections currently outlined in SCA 1X and ACA 2X.

The concept of realignment – the transfer of responsibilities to counties with an ongoing funding source – is especially timely given today's decision by the United States Supreme Court directing the state to reduce its prison population. We continue to urge the Legislature to act swiftly on the realignment proposal, including the constitutional amendment, to ensure that counties have the resources we need to provide appropriate services, supervision, and sanctions to offenders returning to our communities. A properly funded and protected realignment of services is the only logical way to comply with the Court's order and continue to provide for public safety.

To that end, counties urge a special election to ratify the constitutional protections and revenues at the earliest possible time. Delay would only serve to underscore uncertainties at the local level, with local decision makers faced with preparing for local programming without the assurance of continued funding or protections that mitigate local risk. Dedicated funding and constitutional protections are fundamental to counties' support of realignment, as they provide the foundational support for the transfer of responsibilities from the state.

Counties remain committed to working with your Administration and the Legislature on a realignment plan that allows for a more efficient and effective delivery of services to our mutual constituencies. We appreciate the cooperative manner with which your Administration continues to work with us as we discuss the significant implementation issues that must be resolved to provide an orderly and effective transfer of service responsibilities.

I look forward to continuing our positive and productive working relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Tavaglione'.

John Tavaglione
President, California State Association of Counties
Riverside County Supervisor

cc: Ana Matosantos, Director, Department of Finance
Diane Cummins, Special Advisor to the Governor