



June 16, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator McGuire:

I write to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) Counties and Cities: Contracts for Personal Services.

Uplift Family Services is a statewide behavioral/mental health and foster care agency that provides services in five (5) geographical regions throughout the state: Bay Area, Capital, Fresno, Los Angeles, and the Inland Empire. We provide services to approximately 30,000 foster children/ and their families who experience severe mental health challenges. Our services also include work with children with Autism, prevention and early intervention programs aimed to assist children and youth to navigate the complex and harmful behaviors of bullying, gang culture, sexual misconduct, school drop-outs, and we are a foster care and adoption agency. We believe private/public partnerships are important to provide high-quality local services and to save taxpayer resources.

AB 1250 would impose a de facto prohibition on counties' abilities to contract with non-profits, like ours, as well as other business and economic development organizations. In doing so, AB 1250 jeopardizes the delivery of vital services that many Californians depend on, including mental health and social services, public safety and other core functions of counties.

We provide local services that a county either does not have the expertise or internal capability to provide directly.

AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens on community based organizations and private sector contractors for the sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships. It requires contractors to conduct (at our own expense) extensive audits and requires us to disclose personal information, including the names and hourly rates of our employees and any subcontractors and the compensation rates for those workers –subjecting that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant privacy concerns for organizations like ours and our employees.

Restricting counties' abilities to contract for the expertise and most efficient delivery of services could result in decreased access to services or even the elimination of some services outright for our most vulnerable.

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There is no legitimate policy problem that AB 1250 seeks to address. We respectfully request that you oppose 1250 when it comes before you in Committee.

Sincerely,

Darrell Evora
CEO

Cc: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly

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