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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO

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Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board

June 20, 2017

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

**Re: Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Counties: Contracts for personal services.
 OPPOSE – As amended May 30, 2017**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the county of Mono, I am writing to strongly urge you to OPPOSE AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). AB 1250 would create burdensome regulations that will unnecessarily complicate and increase the cost of providing vital services within Mono County.

The bill would negatively impact our county's ability to contract with licensed experts, community based organizations, and small local consulting firms. The restrictions AB 1250 places on contracting for county services could jeopardize certain health care, social services, mental health, public safety and community development services.

Mono County contracts for a number of critical services when contracting for those services represents the most cost effective and efficient use of tax dollars. Our contracts already undergo a high level of internal and public scrutiny, and there does not appear to be public interest in solving a non-existent transparency problem.

As a sparsely populated rural County, it is challenging to procure willing and qualified contractors. The County expects the additional requirements of AB 1250 will make our contracting challenges even greater, will provide no commensurate benefit, and will eliminate opportunities to the detriment of our citizens and your constituents.

For instance, the non-profit, Community Service Solutions (CCS), located in the Antelope Valley serves as the employer of record for the In-Home Supportive Services Program. They provide a critical link between IHSS providers and the aged, disabled, and blind recipients they serve. If CCS no longer chooses to contract with the county for these services due to onerous auditing requirements, we'd need to bring on additional staff to provide this function within the county. This would not be cost effective, thus not a good use of taxpayer money.

We contract with Wild Iris Family Crisis and Counseling Center and First 5 Mono County to provide services to at-risk children and families through the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program (CAPIT) of California. CAPIT Program rules require funding priority is given to private, *nonprofit agencies* with programs that serve the needs of children at risk of abuse or neglect. These funds fit the very definition of our county partners like Wild Iris and First 5.

Through these funds, Wild Iris provides parenting support and education; supervised visitation; mental health support; advocacy; and respite care. First 5 Mono County provides a research-based home visiting program for families with young children, including those at highest risk of child abuse.

In our Community Development Department, there would be impact to services from local firms that are able and willing to perform small-scale projects for the County. These firms are not well-positioned to respond to additional auditing requirements, and in such a small community have legitimate privacy concerns. Additional contract services that may be effected include transportation planning studies, code enforcement activities, and small trails projects.

It is highly probable these service providers will simply choose not to do business with Mono County if they are required to comply with a new, complex and costly process that does not add value to our working relationship or the services they provide. Additionally, under AB1250 they would be asked to pay for the cost of these burdensome requirements.

By restricting our county's ability to provide services in the most cost-effective manner, AB 1250 will also increase costs for taxpayers and reduce funding available for other local services. For many vital programs, it will not be a matter of who will provide the service but if they can even be offered at all.

Please protect our rural county's need to contract and provide services in the most cost effective manner. Mono County strongly urges you to vote no on AB 1250.

Sincerely,



Stacy Corless, Chair
Mono County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Honorable Tom Berryhill
Honorable Frank Bigelow
Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly
Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, California State Assembly
California State Association of Counties