June 12, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer): Counties and Cities: Contracts for Personal Services
As proposed to be amended – Senate Governance and Finance Committee
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our opposition to AB 1250, by Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, which would impose onerous standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties. AB 1250 would severely impact the County’s ability to provide much-needed community services – health, mental health, and rehabilitative services to those in the court-involved population, to name a few – at a time when demand for such services is significant.

As just one example of the real-world impact of AB 1250, Riverside County is the recent recipient of a Proposition 47 recidivism reduction grant administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The County, as an applicant entity, is required to pass through at least half of their grant amount to community-based service providers; additional preference points were given if the 50% threshold were exceeded. On June 8, the BSCC approved grant awards, including $6 million for Riverside University Health System and Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH). RUHS-BH proposed two Integrated Care Behavioral Health Full Services Partnership (FSP) programs that will provide integrated mental health, substance use and primary care services in the Coachella Valley (Desert Region) and in the area of Perris/Moreno Valley in order to serve Western/Mid-County residents. The County’s implementation efforts would be significantly delayed and constrained by the requirements in AB 1250.

Regrettably, there are numerous vague and burdensome provisions in AB 1250 that would hinder the County’s ability to attract high quality contractors with the expertise necessary to provide specialized services that our communities expect and deserve. This aspect of the measure, coupled with the potential financial impact of AB 1250, has the potential to actually reduce county services, a consequence that the author and sponsors could not possibly intend.
In summary, AB 1250 is detrimental to our considerable efforts toward improving the well-being of our communities. We value our public employees and work hard to strike a balance between contracted work and work performed in-house. AB 1250 upends that balance to the detriment of Riverside County and its residents. For these reasons, we are strongly opposed. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rceo.org.

Sincerely,

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly Members and Consultants, Senate Governance and Finance Committee County of Riverside Delegation