May 1, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Jr.
California State Assembly
California State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) Counties and cities: contracts for personal services – Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong opposition of your AB 1250.

In this present economy, cities and counties must constantly seek ways to maintain vital services for their residents, while identifying options to keep down costs associated with those services. Often times, the wide ranging and ever-changing requirements placed on local programs and projects make it necessary to seek contracted assistance to bring in mandated expertise. For example, counties and cities retain outside specialists (attorneys, accountants, etc.) because the county lacks the specialized knowledge and experience. AB 1250 would limit a county’s ability to hire specialized outside counsel, and then make the county liable for any tort they might commit.

Furthermore, requiring counties to clearly demonstrate that the proposed contract will result in actual overall costs savings could be a source of repetitive and ongoing delays as this justification is prepared and subsequently debated. Adding unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and oversight for operational considerations is not time or cost effective.

Finally, the cost savings “audit” will increase county costs. Although the proposed language dictates these audit costs are to be borne by the vendor, the vendor will simply pass those costs on to counties via their costing methods.

For these reasons, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is in strong opposition of AB 1250.

Sincerely,

Miguel Villapudua, Vice Chair
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

CC: Members, San Joaquin County State Legislative Delegation
Paul J. Yoder, Legislative Advocate, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.