June 28, 2017

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

RE: Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) – Restrictions on Counties Ability to Contract Out Services - OPPOSE

Dear Senator McGuire:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 1250 introduced by Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer. The Board of Supervisor’s adopted a 2017 Legislative Platform built upon legislative principles of efficient delivery of county services, fiscal stability and local control. Specifically, the legislative principles state, “Ensure local control over . . . delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community’s preferences.” AB 1250 certainly doesn’t ensure local control and warrants opposition.

AB 1250 appears to:

- Negatively impact the County of Santa Barbara’s ability to exercise local control over the efficient delivery of county services by subjecting a large number of new and existing contracts for services to significant data collection, financial analysis and audits. AB 1250 does contain very limited exemptions, but other services for laundry, landscaping, ambulance transport, legal, information technology, revenue collection, and prehospital EMS care services would be subject to the significant audit, financial analysis and data collection requirements, and

- Create a new unfunded state mandate to conduct specific and extensive data collection, financial analysis and audits on all new and existing contracts. The cost of reviewing and validating the accuracy of the data collection, financial analysis and audits will be a significant additional burden on counties. Without validation by county staff, the conclusions reached through these processes will have limited value. The County of Santa Barbara Legislative Principles specifically opposes the creation of new unfunded mandates.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
   Jimmy MacDonald, Counsel, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
   Ryan Eisberg, Counsel, Senate Republican Caucus
   Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
   Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
   Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
   Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
   Dennis Bozanich, County Legislative Coordinator