



June 12, 2017

Senator Mike McGuire, Chair  
Senate Committee on Governance and Finance  
State Capitol Building, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Counties: Contracts for personal services -- **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the **County of Ventura**, I urge you to oppose AB 1250 by Assemblyman Reginald Jones-Sawyer. This bill would undermine the County's ability to provide critical public health and safety services.

AB 1250 would place costly and unnecessary restrictions on the County's ability to utilize existing law to contract out for specialty services and with non-profits – essentially creating a prohibition on personal service contracts. The restrictions AB 1250 places on contracting for county services will jeopardize health care, social services, mental health and public safety services and would most severely impact the most vulnerable residents of our community.

For Ventura County's Health Care Agency, AB 1250 would significantly reduce the County's ability to provide care to the most vulnerable members of our community by eliminating the very foundation of our innovative and successful system of public/private partnerships that run our 16 community health care clinics located throughout Ventura County. These clinics provide more than 500,000 patient visits per year to our underserved, homeless, and otherwise most vulnerable residents. This would unequivocally and seriously jeopardize the health and safety of our County. AB 1250 would likewise seriously impact the provision of critical hospital inpatient and mental health services for these same vulnerable residents, as utilization of contractor and community based providers to augment County staff is crucial in these areas of scarce, and highly competitive health care resources.

Other examples of adverse impacts include our public safety agencies (Sheriff, Probation) who rely heavily on professional services contracts to provide care to inmates. The scarcity of experienced in-custody medical professionals and additional required infrastructure and equipment would require significant increases in cost in order to staff these services internally, if even possible. These additional costs would force reductions in other public safety functions and potentially result in fewer front-line public safety services and decrease the safety of our community.

SACRAMENTO  
1515 J STREET, SUITE 200  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
PHONE: (916) 442-8913  
WWW.PLATINUMADVISORS.COM



Similar impacts to those above would occur in many other areas of County operations, include Human Services Agency and Information Technology to name just two. Our Human Services Agency relies heavily on community based provider organization to augment their services, across a number of program areas, including Food Stamp program outreach, employment services training and certification of foster homes, among many other program areas. Our Technology Services departments must utilize professional services contracts to augment staff in such resource scare areas as cyber security and software engineering, among others. The inability to timely contract out for such scarce resources would significantly increase costs and impact all areas of county operations, including public safety and health care, where technology has become ubiquitous

Restricting Ventura County's ability to provide services in the most cost-effective manner would significantly increase costs and therefore reduce services. The impacts of AB 1250 are extensive. Attached are several more specific examples of how AB 1250 would directly impact Ventura County's ability to provide critical services. Therefore, on behalf of Ventura County, I urge you to vote "NO" on AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer).

Sincerely,

  
Steven T. Wallauch  
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Consultant to the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance  
Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
Ventura County Legislative Delegation  
Sue Hughes, Senior Deputy Executive Officer, Ventura County

## COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY

The County currently contracts with a number of professional services firms to provide a wide range of care. AB 1250 would make this form of contract healthcare provisioning dramatically more expensive or more likely, prohibit it altogether. This would significantly reduce the County's ability to provide care to the most vulnerable members of our community by eliminating the very foundation of our innovative and successful system of public/private partnerships that run our community health care clinics located throughout Ventura County. These clinics provide more than 500,000 patient visits per year to our underserved, homeless, and otherwise most vulnerable residents. AB 1250 would likewise seriously impact the provision of critical hospital inpatient and Mental Health Services for these same vulnerable residents. These impacts would unequivocally and seriously jeopardize the health and safety of our County.

### Ambulatory Care (Affiliated Community Based Private Outpatient Clinics) Services:

- **16 contract clinics** located throughout Ventura County.
- Providing more than **500,000 clinics visits per year** to our most vulnerable and underserved residents.
- Approximately **450 affiliated private physicians** and **1,000 professional** and administrative staff.
- **\$52 million per year.**
  - Includes physicians, administrators, nurses, technicians and front office staff.

### Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital Services

- **70 professional services firms** and professional staff registry firms
- Annual cost of approximately **\$92 million** per year for contract professional services.
- Specific services impacted include:
  - Critical care nurses: County is unable to hire enough experienced RN nurses, professional staffing firms are required to maintain required nurse to patient ratios in such areas as operating rooms and emergency department, among many others.
  - Laboratory: County is unable to hire sufficient certified laboratory technicians requiring the use of staffing firms.
  - Pharmacy: County is unable to hire sufficient pharmacists and requires use of professional services contracts.
  - Radiology Services.
  - Specialized laboratory tests, and obtaining such services through professional service contacts is the only method to ensure provider competency and reliability to safely perform these tests.

### Behavioral Health Services

- Behavioral Health clinicians and providers are in *critically* short supply.
- **32 full time private psychiatrists** at an annual costs of **\$42 million**,
- **\$32 million** in additional clinical services from an estimated **190 professional staff and 80 unique providers.**
- Positions include psychiatrist clinicians, psychologists, License Clinical Social Worker clinicians, case managers, translators, and many other professional services in **80 private community based provider organizations (CBOs) or professional firms.**



- Specific services impacted would include; mental health counseling, counseling, substance abuse and treatment services, client case management, assessment, education, transportation, and translation, among other services.
- Grant funding: Delays in providing service would also impact qualifying for grant funds and place many services and programs at risk.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY (Sheriff, Probation and Public Defender).**

- Our Sheriff currently contracts for inmate medical care services at a value of \$12-\$13 million dollars per year.
- The County would have to employ a medical director, doctors, nurses, support staff and build some type of facility to house them. Issues include: ongoing costs for training, compliance with state and federal regulations, who would be responsible for medical malpractice costs, what type of liability would that leave the County open to. Currently the contractor assumes liability for medical care at the jails.
  - Maintenance and custodial services for several leased facilities.
  - Helicopter maintenance due to the technical expertise required to keep them maintained.
- Telephone services for the jails.
- Legal services in instances where Public Defender is representing multiple defendants with conflict of interests.

### **HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

AB 1250 would have a significant adverse impact for the vulnerable residents our Humans Services Agency serves, increasing the cost and therefore reducing the level of these services. It would have a similar adverse impact on the large number of community based organizations the Human Services Agency contracts with to provide these services. Examples of such services include:

- Food stamp outreach, education and potential eligibility screening and application assistance
- Employment Job placement services (Counseling, outreach to employers, job search and readiness assistance.)
- Various treatments for children services clients such as counseling, treatment services, by LCSW type staff.
- Childcare for CalWorks clients.
- Certification of Foster Homes
- Trainings (required) for professional staff
- Estimated by the Director, bringing these services in house would cost 10% to 30% more and result in a proportional reduction in service levels in these areas.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- Currently contracts out for such resource-scarce technologies as database administration, software engineering, network/cyber security and advanced software development, among others.
- Inability to dynamically adjust size staff for limited-duration projects and contract out for scarce resources significantly increase costs and will adversely impact such areas as public safety and health care, as well as potentially make the support of certain technologies which require highly specialized skills not possible.