



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Michael McGuire
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) OPPOSE

Dear Senator McGuire,

I am writing to respectfully request that you vote NO on AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) when it is comes before the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. AB 1250 would make county contracting processes so onerous that it would be virtually impossible for public child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health departments to engage in public/private partnerships with nonprofit community-based organizations to provide critical services and support for vulnerable children youth and families, denying them the services they need and to which they are entitled.

Alternative Family Services (AFS) provides a multitude of services on contract with both Marin and Sonoma Counties. In Marin we provide independent living skills for emancipating foster youth as well as transitional housing for former foster youth.

The public/private partnership[s] between AFS and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services and the Sonoma County Human Services Department results in care and services to many children, youth and families annually.

But AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens in the contracting process between counties and community based organizations for the transparently sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships.

The bill would require nonprofit contractors to conduct extensive audits at their own expense and to disclose personal information including the names and hourly pay of their employees, subjecting that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant privacy concerns for our employees, and would have a chilling effect on our ability to recruit and retain qualified staff.

AFS absolutely supports accountability in contracting and service provision, but AB 1250 is not designed to ensure accountability, it is designed to quash public/private partnerships. AB 1250 does not discriminate between contracts that outsource county functions to multinational corporations, and those that create public/private partnerships between counties and community-based organizations for local provision of safety net services. We could see a day when every county contract is litigated and vital human services go unperformed while cases wind their way through the courts, or counties throw up their hands in frustration.

There is no legitimate public policy problem that AB 1250 seeks to solve; yet, its passage would have devastating effects on the most vulnerable populations in our communities, on local human services and on Alternative Family Services.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you vote no on AB 1250 when it comes before you in Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay A. Berlin".

Jay A. Berlin, CEO