



**Families In Transition**  
of Santa Cruz County

(831) 728-9791

406 Main St., Rm.326, Watsonville CA 95076

[www.fitsantacruz.org](http://www.fitsantacruz.org)

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 408  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc. I write to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc. serves family constituencies (i.e. families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, face multiple barriers to self-sufficiency but, who are working tirelessly towards self-reliance, are devoted to creating stability for their children and becoming thriving members of the community) in County of Santa Cruz, California. We believe private/public partnerships are integral to the provision of high-quality local services and serve to save taxpayer resources.

AB 1250 would impose a de facto prohibition on counties' abilities to contract with non-profits, like ours, as well as other business and economic development organizations. In doing so, AB 1250 jeopardizes the delivery of vital services that many Californians depend on, including health and social services, public safety and other core functions of counties.

We provide local services that a county either does not have the expertise or internal capability to provide directly. Stabilizing services of Families In Transition are provided to families who reside in Santa Cruz County and who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness and include case management, resource referral, money management, tenant education, short-term rapid rehousing and housing retention assistance, housing search support, as well as landlord negotiations and mediation. Families In Transition services emphasize Housing First and utilize Progressive Engagement, which in turn expands the number of families assisted and ultimately increases the number of families who are able to attain stable housing, embrace their Welfare to Work plan, work their way off aid and become contributing members of the community.

AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens on community based organizations and private sector contractors for the sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships. It requires contractors to conduct (at our own expense) extensive audits and requires us to disclose personal information, including the names and hourly rates of our employees and any



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subcontractors and the compensation rates for those workers –subjecting that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant privacy concerns for organizations like ours and our employees. In addition, requiring a separate audit over and above the annual audit we already pay for is redundant and a poor use of funds.

Restricting counties' abilities to contract for the expertise and most efficient delivery of services could result in decreased access to services or even the elimination of some services outright for our most vulnerable.

There is no legitimate policy problem that AB 1250 seeks to address. We respectfully request that you oppose 1250 when it comes before you in Committee.

Sincerely,

Melisa Vierra

Executive Director

Cc: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly