



EL CAMINO SIERRA

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June 27, 2017

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

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

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the County of Inyo, I write to add our voice to the growing chorus of opposition to Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) that is coming from other California counties (34 as of June 21), chambers of commerce and business associations, non-profit organizations, departments of Health & Human Services, emergency and public safety agencies, and children and youth coalitions. We strongly urge you to OPPOSE AB 1250.

This bill, even after its recent amendment, comes with serious administrative, financial and legal implications for counties, as well as significant privacy issues for contractors and the general handicapping of local jurisdictions' management of their scarce resources for the good of the public. The bill's many onerous requirements, including full cost-benefit analyses prior to the awarding of contracts, will create a de facto prohibition of counties' ability to contract with licensed experts, non-profits and community organizations to deliver vital services to residents throughout the State. These are vital services that many counties simply cannot deliver themselves, either because of a lack of expertise or lack of funding, or both. The result will be to paralyze the delivery of essential public services.

The restrictions AB 1250 places on contracting for county services will jeopardize counties' ability to provide health care, social services, mental health, public safety, public works and administrative services across California, including in your District. The mandatory annual audits will delay service delivery and create gaps in vital programs.

In Inyo County, we contract for a number of critical services that we do not have the expertise, internal staffing capabilities or resources to provide in the most effective manner for our communities, which are spread over a sprawling 10,140 square miles. These services include public health programs, senior programs, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, private psychiatric hospitals, juvenile detention, inmate mental health and substance abuse programs, private ambulance services, geotechnical services, recycling and waste removal, environmental impact analysis, data and records retention, consulting, auditing, legal services, emergency road repair, and timely emergency and disaster response in general. Depending on the service, the daily lives of some of our most vulnerable populations, our entire population of almost 19,000 full-time residents, and our millions of annual visitors could be unduly and adversely impacted by the overreaching bureaucracy of AB 1250.

As noted by the California State Association of Counties, there is no legitimate policy problem that AB 1250 seems to address. The bill includes the unnecessary requirement that counties compile costly online databases of information already available to the public, and the invasive provision that contractors disclose in their applications the total compensation they provide to workers under the contract and the compensation for their top five officers. The former is a further drain on the resources of cash-strapped and short-staffed counties and the latter is a major disincentive for contractors to apply for county contracts – which, in small communities, will have a crippling ripple effect on the local economy.

Restricting our County's ability to provide services in the most cost-effective manner has the compounding effect of increasing costs for taxpayers and reducing funding available for other local services, further stripping our residents of the safety nets upon which they rely and even the basic benefits they rightfully expect in exchange for their tax dollars. AB 1250 also includes ambiguous terms that place counties in legal jeopardy, with the potential to further siphon taxpayer money away from intended uses. For many vital programs, it will not be a matter of who will provide the services but if they can even be offered at all.

Please protect services for the most vulnerable. Please protect counties' ability to spend taxpayer money efficiently and effectively. Inyo County strongly urges you to vote no on AB 1250.

Sincerely,



Mark Tillemans
Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Honorable Tom Berryhill, California State Senate
Honorable Devon Mathis, California State Assembly
Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly
Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, California State Assembly
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California