

June 14, 2017

Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). County Contracts for Personal Services.
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

Reading and Beyond (RaB) writes to express our respectful opposition to your Assembly Bill 1250 because it would severely restrict our County's ability to contract for services by placing hurdles that will increase costs and reduce opportunities to meet service delivery needs for our residents. Regrettably, AB 1250 will mean a reduction in services offered to fewer residents, if they can still be offered at all.

AB 1250 would restrict a county's ability to contract for personal services, an undefined term in the bill, unless specific steps are taken by the county and a current or prospective contracted service provider. The service provider could be a non-profit organization, a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship offering a broad scope of services including but not limited to prehospital EMS care, legal representation, landscaping, foster care, mental health, information technology support, workforce and economic development, and senior support services.

Reading and Beyond is currently contracted to provide new employment opportunities for CalFresh participants in the Fresno County area. Through this contract Reading and Beyond has been able to assist more than a 1000 CalFresh recipients getting ready and to fill open job positions with local businesses. AB1250 threatens that contract and its important community building services.

AB 1250 provides that counties may only enter into a personal service contract that is valued at more than \$100,000 if the Board of Supervisors "clearly demonstrates" that the contract will result in actual cost savings according to specific cost-benefit analysis standards. However, counties are expressly prohibited from taking into account savings that could result from the contract through equipment, like specialty vehicles, or materials provided. AB 1250 could restrict contracting based on an incomplete analysis.

In addition, while counties are not responsible for the cost of conducting the analysis it will still hurt our ability to maximize services because contractors will pass on new costs to counties in other ways. Counties will also likely see a smaller pool of providers to choose from if AB 1250 cost-benefit analysis proves to be too costly, time consuming, or burdensome.

Contracted service providers are also required to provide extensive information about their private employees to counties and counties in turn must make that information subject to the California Public Records Act. This opens the door to major new administrative burdens and new, non-reimbursable administrative costs for records request compliance. It may also open the door to litigation over personal privacy violations brought forward by private employees.



For these reasons, Reading and Beyond is opposing to AB 1250. If you should have any questions about our position, please contact me at (559) 342-8625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Santana", is written over the typed name and title.

Luis Santana
Executive Director
Reading and Beyond

cc: The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, California State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Berryhill, California State Senate
The Honorable Andy Vidak, California State Senate
The Honorable Jim Patterson, California State Assembly