June 27, 2017

Senator Mike 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 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.

Redwood Community Services (RCS) is a non-profit public benefit organization serving children, youth, and families in Mendocino, and Lake Counties. RCS is a multi-program family service organization serving people across the lifespan and provides a strength based approach to care. Our goal is to strengthen families and empower our communities’ most vulnerable population through programs such as Behavioral Health Services, Therapeutic Foster/Adoption Services, Residential Care, Crisis Services for children and adults, Transition Age Youth programs, Youth Resource Centers and many more services.

The public/private partnerships between Redwood Community Services, and the Mendocino County Health and Human Services agency and County of Lake results in care and services to an average of 700 children, youth and families annually.

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 non-profit 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.

RCS 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

Foster/Adoption Services • Behavioral Health Services • Wraparound Services • Residential Care • Crisis Services • Transitional Youth Programs • Youth Resource Centers • Youth Homeless Services • Youth Employment Services

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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 our agency.

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

If you have any questions, Please feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Camille Schraeder, M.A.
Executive Director