



June 22, 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 Seneca Family of Agencies, I write to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Seneca serves over 17,000 children and families across 17 California counties. We believe private/public partnerships are important to provide high-quality local services and 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. Seneca provides a comprehensive continuum of mental health, education, child welfare, and probation services, dramatically expanding access to critically necessary services for children and families during the most challenging times of their lives. AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens on community based organizations for the sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships. It requires contractors to conduct (at our own expense) extensive audits and to disclose personal information, including the names and hourly rates of our employees and any 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Berrick", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ken Berrick, CEO/President
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Cc: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly