



**Smiles and Tears CFS
Foster Family Agency**

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ADMINISTRATION:

Wednesday, June 21, 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 Smiles and Tears Children and Family Services Inc., I write to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). The Smiles and Tears Children and Family Services Inc., serves foster children, domestic violence victims, homeless, etc. in Riverside County California and 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.

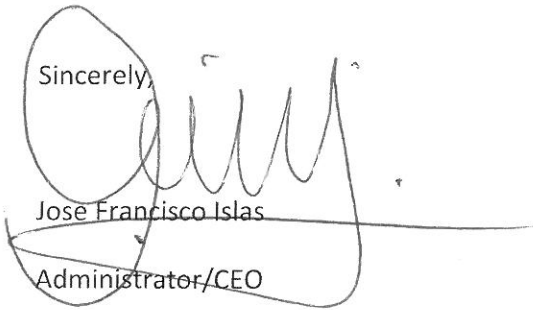
We provide local services that a county either does not have the expertise or internal capability to provide directly. Our Foster Family Agency provides Approved Foster Families Homes to alleviate the increasing need of trained families to be resource parents.

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 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Jose Francisco Islas', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jose Francisco Islas

Administrator/CEO

Cc: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly