

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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June 4, 2020

The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 794 (Jackson) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 794 (Jackson), which expands SB 821 (Jackson, Ch. 615, Stats. 2018) by allowing cities and universities to automatically enroll residents, students, and employees in locally-operated emergency alert systems while preserving their ability to opt out, and clarifies that alerting authorities may use wireless telephone subscriber data for the sole purpose of emergency notification, and allows local governments to identify residents with access and functional needs for the purpose of sending them specialized emergency alerts.

In 2018, the County of Santa Barbara supported SB 821 (Jackson), which authorized counties to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident account holders through the records of a public utility, for the purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system.

In 2018, Santa Barbara County suffered major loss that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides. When the Thomas Fire began to burn in the County of Santa Barbara, less than 15% of the County's residents had signed up to receive county-generated cell phone and email alerts. SB 794 helps to ensure that more California residents will receive critical emergency alerts by expanding California's opt-out emergency notification program to include cities and universities, as well as clarifying that alerting authorities may use wireless telephone subscriber data to enroll residents in local alerting systems.

Accurate contact information is vital in helping to notify people of immediate danger and key to improving outcomes during disasters. The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020

Legislative Platform, which includes the Efficient Service Delivery and Operations Legislative Principle that specifically states that the County will support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services, including disaster prevention & response.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 794 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or NAnderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors