

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration  
 Building  
 105 East Anapamu Street  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
 Telephone: (805) 568-2190  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

DAS WILLIAMS  
 First District  
 GREGG HART  
 Second District, Chair  
 JOAN HARTMANN  
 Third District  
 PETER ADAM  
 Fourth District, Vice Chair  
 STEVE LAVAGNINO  
 Fifth District

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
 Governor, State of California  
 State Capitol  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 823 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) – Request for Veto**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request a veto on SB 823, which appeared only hours before the final bill amendment deadline and arrived at without the consent of the entities charged with its implementation. The bill departs substantially from the agreement previously arrived at with CSAC. SB 823 now imposes a disjointed approach that seems focused on disrupting existing county programs and hampering individual and regional county implementation. We question the necessity of and motivation for conferring considerable administrative and oversight responsibilities to a new, untested office with a far broader reach than the narrow set of responsibilities being shifted to counties.

In alignment with CSAC, UCC, CBHDA and RCRC's letter dated September 7, 2020, the County is concerned that:

- The agreement – unlike previous realignments – did not, in its final form, represent a partnership agreement with the entities charged with carrying out a new set of intensive services for a high-need population. Given the rushed nature of its development, the bill includes multiple drafting errors that require technical cleanup, some of which jeopardize foundational county protections.
- The proposal risks disrupting the most foundational juvenile funding streams and programs, where counties have shown success with our current local juvenile justice population, which represents more than 90% of the statewide total.
- The funding formula creates inequitable by-county allocations and does not create a “bridge to success” for those communities needing to build out local programmatic capacity or the appropriate infrastructure. The distribution methodology perpetuates concerns that the system will result in “justice by geography” and, because it is proposed to be revisited in its entirety in three years, does not create the certainty or stability for counties to make long-term investments.
- The proposal lacks a complete process for protecting against adult court commitments due to its rushed construction.

The County is concerned that the approach to DJJ realignment in its totality does not provide counties the tools to deliver improved outcomes for this population of youth. We share the goals of keeping youth close to home and helping them succeed, but SB 823 misses the mark in several notable ways.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020 Legislative Platform, which includes the Inter-Agency Collaboration Principle that supports the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the: California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and other local and regional agencies.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests a veto on SB 823. 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](mailto:NAnderson@countyofsb.org).

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Keely Bosler, Director of Finance  
Amy Jarvis, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Clint Kellum, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Joshua Gauger, Legislative Advocate, CSAC  
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35<sup>th</sup> 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