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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 821 (Cooper) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Assembly Bill 821 (Cooper), which will clarify the definition of “extraordinary circumstances” as it relates to housing and increases the notice requirements to the non-domicile county while providing confidentiality protections to the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP).

The courts currently determine whether “extraordinary circumstances” exist when the state recommends placement of an SVP in a county different from their original place of residence/domicile. AB 821 clarifies the definition of extraordinary circumstances in that “the lack of housing alone is not sufficient to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances”.

AB 821 also promotes transparency and fairness in the placement of sexually violent predators in non-domicile counties by requiring:

- Increases the 30-day notice to a 90-day notice to the non-domicile county, which allows time for the community and the DA’s Office to evaluate and respond to the proposed placement.
- Discovery of supporting documents regarding extraordinary circumstances to support the request for non-domicile placement.
- Additional privacy protections of the sexually violent predator regarding the discovery documents.
- Changes the in-person requirement for the attorneys, witnesses and the public community to attend the court hearing to a remote appearance by such individuals.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform under the principle of Fiscal Stability, which states that the County will support funding and will advocate for legislation that aligns with the goals of the County of Santa

Barbara Public Safety Realignment Act FY 20-21, which includes coordinating efforts to increase efficiencies and promote best practices.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 821. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or jmcginty@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Jim Cooper, Author
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Consultant, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 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