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**BOARD OF
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 493 (Bradford) - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Bradford:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express our respectful opposition to SB 493 (Bradford), which would redirect Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, revise the composition of local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils, and recast various elements of required multiagency juvenile justice plans. In alliance with CSAC, the County of Santa Barbara supports the continued evaluation of the best and most effective ways to address the therapeutic needs of youth in our community, we are steadfast in our opposition to diverting meaningful and long-standing investments in local systems, particularly when implementation of interrelated juvenile justice reforms (SB 823, 2020) are now underway.

As stated in CSAC's letter dated on April 1, 2021, it is our understanding that SB 493 is in response to findings of a 2019 state audit report that examined five counties' use and reporting of JJCPA funds. Santa Barbara County was one of the five counties listed in the state audit, in fact the state audit report specifically stated that Santa Barbara has made several significant changes to its plan that indicated shifts in its strategy for addressing juvenile crime and delinquency, and it completely revised its plan for fiscal year 2018–19.

As was outlined briefly in the audit report, JJCPA was enacted statutorily in 2000 and funded for just over a decade through the state General Fund. JJCPA – along with a variety of other local assistance services and programs – was moved under the 2011 Public Safety Realignment fiscal structure where it now is guaranteed a minimum level of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funding and enjoys constitutional protections approved in Proposition 30 (2012). This latter development requires careful thinking and understanding about the constitutional implications of potentially repurposing, or redirecting, the entirety of JJCPA funds as we believe is intended in SB 493. We would note that in the drafting, this measure may also capture other law enforcement designated

programs that are statutorily linked to JJCPA and have no reasonable way of being carried out by community-based organizations or non-law enforcement departments.

SB 493 proposes to permit redirection of nearly every dollar of JJCPA funds, which today are – in many instances – dedicated to staffing and personnel costs that make up the backbone of our juvenile probation departments. These expenditures have been and continue to be wholly eligible and lawful under JJCPA. While the County is not opposed to evaluating ways in which to improve JJCPA reporting and the structure of local coordinating councils (as was done through Chapter 880, Statutes of 2016) and agree that descriptions of how our JJCPA-funded programs influenced juvenile justice trends could be more robust in our year-end reports, we must oppose this measure that would destabilize a stable, constitutionally protected funding structure at a time when we are assuming vast new responsibilities on the juvenile justice continuum.

We believe community-based organizations provide valuable programs and services to criminal justice-involved populations in many parts of the state. The process for allocating funds to these organizations should remain a local decision with robust community engagement. Furthermore, we would value a collaborative discussion on separate, new investments in these programs as to complement the existing work of county probation departments that share the goals of diverting individuals from the criminal justice system where possible and facilitating positive community reentry.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Plank that specifically states that the County will support State funding and policies that fully support Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) initiatives and opposes cuts to funding that would negatively impact the County's budget. The County has also adopted the inter-agency collaboration principle that states that the County will support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and collaborate on mutually beneficial issues.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors must oppose SB 493. 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: Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety
Stephanie Jordan, Consultant, Senate Committee on Public Safety
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate 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