



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
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July 18, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 505 (Ting) – Oppose

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of Trinity County, we write to express our opposition to AB 505.

Counties are fully invested in a strong, vibrant, and responsive juvenile justice system that does not result in more kids being referred to the adult court system and with the goals of producing improved and sustainable positive outcomes for system-involved youth. As counties are now responsible for the entirety of the juvenile justice system pursuant to SB 823 (DJJ realignment), it is imperative that county authority and responsibility remain connected to ensure the system can respond appropriately - AB 505 impedes county efforts in this regard.

Counties have been consistent throughout the DJJ realignment discussions that there must be a fiscal structure with certainty and protections needed to assure adequate and sustainable funding over the long-term. This bill, among many other changes, would change the fiscal framework adopted in SB 823 (2020) and would instead require the State's approval of local plans in order to receive annual realignment funding and dictates how the Board shall make local allocations for rehabilitative, housing, and supervision services. This is in contrast to the framework passed by the Legislature which requires development of a local plan to set forth locally responsive priorities and plans to guide the allocation of funding for services.

AB 505 unnecessarily adds barriers to stable funding for counties responsible for implementing critical services to youth at the higher end of the system as locals look to build out the responses required upon the state closing DJJ. Additionally, there are other programmatic changes proposed in this bill that create instability and significant changes to the juvenile justice continuum. There has not been a demonstrated need to make the changes proposed in this bill and we urge the Legislature to take caution in making concurrent changes to programs whereby implementation is currently and earnestly underway as counties are working diligently to best serve the youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Cox".

Jill Cox,
Chairman

RIC LEUTWYLER
DISTRICT 1

JILL COX
DISTRICT 2

LIAM GOGAN
DISTRICT 3

HEIDI CARPENTER-HARRIS
DISTRICT 4

DAN FRASIER
DISTRICT 5