



SENATE FLOOR ALERT

May 21, 2024

**Senate Bill 1057 (Menjivar) – Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils
As Amended May 16, 2024 – OPPOSED
Senate Third Reading File**

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to respectfully urge your **“NO” vote on SB 1057** (Menjivar), which would dramatically recast the composition of multiagency juvenile justice coordinating councils (JJCC), designed to develop and implement a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime.

Although counties appreciate the significant amendments taken in the Senate Appropriations Committee, our associations remain fundamentally opposed to this bill as it *requires* that, for a JJCC to be eligible to receive Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding, the newly revised council composition *must* consist of 50% community representation and *must* be co-chaired by a community representative. While our collective associations recognize the vital importance of community representation and deeply value the impact of community-based organizations in the vast arena of supportive services for justice-impacted youth, existing law already requires an at-large community representative, a representative from a community-based drug and alcohol program, and representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations providing services to minors. This is in addition to a wide range of multiagency stakeholders from the fields of mental health, social services, education, law enforcement, as well as an elected county board of supervisor. To be clear, current law does *not* prohibit 50% community representation, nor does it provide a specified cap on the number of community representatives that can serve on a JJCC.

Unfortunately, SB 1057 does not take into consideration the real and challenging concerns in counties across the state that will be unable to establish a full council due to a lack of community volunteers, especially in rural regions. Further, while on its surface the changes to the composition of the JJCC and their meeting frequency may seem reasonable, from the county perspective, they are reflective of the objective to minimize local authority and redirect JJCPA funding that is guaranteed to counties under 2011 Realignment and protected pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012) with maximum flexibility and control over the design.

Ultimately, counties understand the unique trust and critically important relationship current and formerly justice system-involved individuals have with those under county care. Nonetheless, the process by which funds are allocated to non-governmental agencies should remain a locally determined decision by those who are held accountable by the state and public for the delivery of treatment services, programming, supervision, public safety, and youth outcomes – county

government. While we share the goal of strengthening community partnerships to provide the highest level of services across our state – which is occurring in counties under existing law – we must regretfully oppose any approaches that achieves this by diminishing local authority over state-mandated county responsibilities.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 1057, but remain eager to engage in broader discussions on separate investments that will support improvements to the juvenile justice continuum. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Morimune, rmorimune@counties.org, Elizabeth Espinosa, ehe@hbeadvocacy.com, or Sarah Dukett, sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

cc: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, California State Senate