



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



June 21, 2023

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
1021 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 553 (Cortese). Occupational safety: workplace violence: restraining orders and workplace violence prevention plan.
Oppose (*as amended June 20, 2023*)

Dear Assembly Member Kalra:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 553, related to workplace violence prevention plans. We fully support providing a safe worksite for both employees and those members of the public who are present on our county, special district and school facilities. Regrettably, the approach proposed in SB 553 is a poor fit for our respective organizations and our public agencies would be better served through more tailored approaches through the established stakeholder process.

We understand there is concern with the deliberative, stakeholder inclusive regulatory process underway with Cal/OSHA to develop guidance on the same topic. We appreciate the recent amendment to delay implementation but would encourage consideration to also delay moving this bill forward without more extensive conversations with the diverse types of employers, and still aim to meet a January 1, 2025 deadline.

We are concerned with the scale and cost of obligations imposed by SB 553. Unlike private industry, local fee authority does not allow for cost recovery. For school districts alone, the initiation workplace violence prevention plan training component for just one hour would be approximately \$19 million in Proposition 98 dollars.

Local agencies take employee safety seriously. There are also existing requirements across various statutes to provide workplace protections for public employers. Furthermore, if implementation is not to take place until January 2025, we request that conversations continue during the legislative interim to understand the full implementation needs and possible unintended consequences of applying a healthcare worksite standard to a diverse group of public sector settings like schools, libraries, and public safety departments.

SB 553 would not necessarily result in an immediate reduction in workplace violence and we welcome the conversation on other means to best use local resources to achieve this goal. For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 553.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Advocate
Association of California School Administrators



Aaron Avery
Senior Legislative Representative
California Special District Association



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Briana Bruns
Director, Policy & Advocacy
California County Superintendents

CC: The Honorable David Cortese
Members, Assembly Labor and Employment Committee
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