



April 16, 2024

The Honorable Bill Dodd
Chair, Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
1021 O Street, Suite 7610
Sacramento, CA
95814

**RE: SB 1107 (DURAZO) AS AMENDED
APRIL 9, 2024 – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Dodd:

On behalf of the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we respectfully oppose SB 1107 by Senator Durazo. This bill requires county human services agencies to implement a program by which homeless individuals could receive government-related mail at a physical location to be designated by the agency. The program would be optional for participants, but counties would be required to provide participants information about the program including hours of operation.

Providing a mail service for homeless individuals presents significant and costly operational challenges. County human services agencies would be required to sort and process large volumes of mail, ensuring privacy, maintaining security, and managing forwarded or returned mail. This is no small undertaking, and would require funding for additional dedicated county staff, additional space for mail collection and sorting, as well as the mailboxes themselves, and adequate security, especially for the large urban counties that have tens of thousands of homeless individuals. The proposed program would also increase liability claims for lost, misplaced, or delayed mail resulting in additional costs to counties.

While some county human services agencies offer limited mail services to for clients of the county programs to receive communication for the programs in which the client participates, this bill requires county human services agencies to provide mail services for all government mail to all homeless individuals in the county, regardless of whether the individual is a current client. Given the serious fiscal challenges that exist at all levels of government, county human services agencies do not have the financial, staffing, or structural capacity to undertake these significant new mandates.

For these reasons, CWDA, UCC and RCRC respectfully oppose SB 1107.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org
916-447-4806



Eileen Cubanski
Executive Director
CWDA
ecubanski@cwda.org
916-443-1749



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com
916-753-0844

cc:

The Honorable Elena Durazo
Honorable Senators and Consultants, Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
Joe Parra, Republican Consultant
Angela Pontes, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Robert Smith, Department of Social Services
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties
County Caucus