



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 27, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 75 (Roth) – SUPPORT
As Amended March 20, 2023**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support Senate Bill 75 (Roth). SB 75 would authorize 26 new superior court judgeships, subject to appropriation. If funded in the budget, any new judgeships would be allocated to counties in the state in accordance with the Judicial Council's Judicial Needs Assessment. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

In recent years, the judicial branch has received funding for the fifty judgeships authorized by AB 159 (*Statutes of 2007, Chapter 722*). However, a critical need for additional judicial resources in some underserved areas of the state continues to exist. Based on the Judicial Council's 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment, seventeen counties require additional judgeships for a total requirement of ninety-eight new judicial positions in the State. Nine of those 17 counties are rural and account for fifteen of the judicial positions needed, in order to provide appropriate access to justice for residents living in remote regions of the state.

Every day rural counties see the real impacts of our overwhelmed justice system in case dismissals, delayed trials, and more. In addition, court workload continues to grow with new programs like CARE Court that requires additional staffing to meet new demands. If we as a state truly believe in justice, we must provide it in a timely fashion to every Californian regardless of zip code, and that begins with properly authorizing and funding judicial positions in every corner of the state.

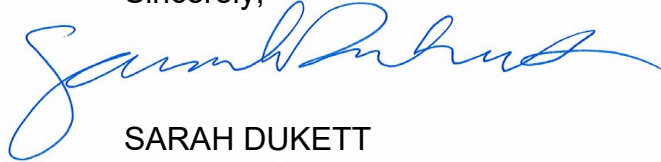
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For these reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your “Aye” vote when this measure is heard before your committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Richard Roth, Member of the California State Senate
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Matthew Fleming, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kirk Feely, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus