



April 26, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Member of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: AB 2625 (Bryan) – Courts Notification System
As amended 4/11/2024 – OPPOSE
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Bryan:

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 jointly express our respectful opposition to AB 2625, your measure that would require counties to develop a court reminder notification system to notify individuals of court appearances.

While our associations do not dispute the value and benefits of the underlying policy objective, counties must oppose this measure for fiscal and operational reasons. Importantly, the assignment of this responsibility to counties – when it is, in fact, the courts that possess the case-level data necessary to accurately and timely notify defendants of upcoming court hearings – creates additional complexities, resulting in higher costs.

- **Counties do not have access to real-time data necessary to effectuate this new mandate. Establishing connections to local court case management systems would be costly.**

Far-reaching reforms to create a single, statewide trial court system began in the late 1980s. Pursuant to multiple pieces of landmark legislation, including the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act (AB 233, Escutia – Ch. 850, Statutes of 1997), counties and courts undertook a deliberate and painstaking process to identify and differentiate local court and county functions. While inextricable ties continue to link courts and counties at the local level, trial courts' local case management systems operate fully outside of county control and authority. AB 2625 would require courts and counties alike to establish new technological pathways to permit sharing of real-time case-level data necessary to allow counties to develop a court notification system statewide. Additionally, the provisions in the bill that would allow other public and non-

governmental entities to send text notifications contemplate additional and costly re-engineering.

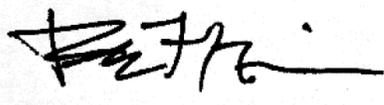
- **AB 2625 would impose a blanket mandate across all 58 counties, but the measure does not appear to contemplate accommodation of court hearing notification systems that are currently operational.**

Irrespective of the fact that numerous jurisdictions in the state currently operate court notification systems, it is our belief that the requirement in proposed Penal Code section 1425 that “each county shall develop a court reminder system” would require some counties to undertake redundant work to fulfill this new obligation.

Given the operational complexities identified above, counties believe that the costs to implement AB 2625 would exceed those identified with previous bills¹ that would have required the Judicial Council to create a statewide mechanism to send court hearing notifications. Ultimately, our associations believe that the assignment of this responsibility to counties seems misplaced, confusing, duplicative, and expensive to implement.

The considerable fiscal impacts contemplated by this measure come at a time when neither the state nor counties have sufficient resources to perform their existing responsibilities. For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, and RCRC must therefore respectfully oppose this measure. Please feel free to contact Ryan Morimune at CSAC (rmorimune@counties.org), Elizabeth Espinosa at UCC (ehe@hbeadvocacy.com), or Sarah Dukett at RCRC (sdukett@rcrcnet.org) for any questions on our associations’ perspectives. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune
Legislative Representative
CSAC



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Representative
UCC



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Appropriations Committee

¹ SB 255 (Umberg, 2023) and SB 850 (Umberg, 2023).