



association of california
school administrators

Date: September 6, 2023

To: Honorable Members, California State Assembly

From: Association of California School Administrators; California County Superintendents; California School Boards Association; California Special Districts Association; California State Association of Counties; Rural County Representatives of California

Re: **Senate Bill 553 (Cortese). Workplace violence prevention plan.**
REQUEST FOR "NO" Vote (as amended September 1, 2023)

On behalf of the organizations represented on this floor alert, we write to respectfully request your "NO" vote on Senate Bill 553 (Cortese), 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 district facilities. However, we continue to have concerns as follows:

- The expansion of temporary restraining order (TRO) filing authority to union representatives could undermine other existing administrative processes that are available currently to address employee safety concerns outside of the judicial system. It is not clear to our organizations why this additional authority is needed when employees themselves may seek a TRO and their employer(s) may assist in that process.
- Unlike private industries that have cost recovery mechanism, local fee authority does not allow for cost recovery to accommodate new administrative burdens. For school districts alone, the initial workplace violence prevention plan training component for just one hour would be approximately \$19 million in Proposition 98 dollars. This does not include the direct administrative costs for developing and revising the plan and associated record keeping. Making matters worse, the current version states there is no mandate reimbursement eligibility for the new requirements imposed by SB 553.
- From a broader standpoint, we believe the deliberative, stakeholder-inclusive regulatory process that created the draft guidance on this topic should be allowed to continue. Efforts to circumvent regulatory drafting efforts may not result in meaningful policy changes and could create unintended consequences for the various impacted parties.

Local agencies take employee safety seriously. There are existing requirements across various statutes for public employers to provide workplace protections specific to those job duties or job settings. SB 553 would not necessarily result in an immediate resolution to current workplace violence problems in certain industries but does represent a drain on current public resources. If you have any questions regarding our position please contact Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Advocate, Association of California School Administrators, at (916) 329-3807.