



June 6, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1057 (Menjivar) – Juvenile justice coordinating council
As Amended 5/16/2024 – OPPOSE
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Assembly Member McCarty:

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 jointly write to express our respectful opposition to SB 1057 by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This measure would dramatically recast the composition of multiagency juvenile justice coordinating councils (JJCC), which are designed to develop and implement a continuum of county-based responses to addressing the needs of justice system-involved youth.

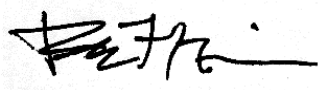
Although counties appreciate the significant amendments from the Senate Appropriations Committee, our associations remain fundamentally opposed to this bill as it requires that, for a JJCC to be eligible to receive Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding, the newly revised council composition must consist of 50% community representation and must be cochaired by a community representative. While our collective associations recognize the vital importance of community representation and deeply value the impact of community-based organizations in the vast arena of supportive services for justice-impacted youth, existing law already requires an at-large community representative, a representative from a community-based drug and alcohol program, and representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations providing services to minors. This community representation is in addition to a wide range of multiagency stakeholders from the fields of mental health, social services, education, law enforcement, as well as an elected county board of supervisor. To be clear, current law does not prohibit 50% community representation, nor does it provide a specified cap on the number of community representatives that can serve on a JJCC.

Unfortunately, SB 1057 does not take into consideration the real and challenging concerns in counties across the state that are unable to establish a full council due to a lack of community volunteers, especially in rural regions. Further, while on its surface the changes to the composition of the JJCC and their meeting frequency may seem reasonable, counties remain concerned that the end goal of this measure is to minimize local governmental authority and redirect JJCPA funding away from long-standing, bedrock investments in county staffing. As we have noted in our previous advocacy on bills that have sought to make changes to this same section of law, JJCPA funding is part of the 2011 Realignment fiscal structure and therefore protected pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Ultimately, counties understand the unique trust and critically important relationship current and formerly justice system-involved individuals have with those under county care. Nonetheless, the process by which funds are allocated to non-governmental agencies must remain a locally determined decision by those who are held accountable by the state and public for the delivery of treatment services, programming, supervision, public safety, and youth outcomes – county government. While we remain committed to sustaining and strengthening community partnerships to provide the highest level of services to youth and young people across our state, we must regretfully oppose any approach that achieves this shared objective by diminishing local authority over state-mandated county responsibilities.

For these reasons, we remain opposed to SB 1057. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Morimune, rmorimune@counties.org, Elizabeth Espinosa, ehes@hbeadvocacy.com, or Sarah Dukett, sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate, CSAC



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Representative, UCC



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate, RCRC

cc: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, California State Senate
Members and Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee