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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay (800) 735-2929

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2882 (McCarty), California Community Corrections Performance Redirection –
OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, in lockstep with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), to express our strong opposition to AB 2882 (McCarty), which would amend the composition of the local Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and the CCP Executive Committee; specify new plan development and processing requirements at the local level; and add considerable new CCP data collection and reporting requirements.

We are concerned the bill upends the existing purpose and mission of the CCP, which is still a critical component to the public safety response in our communities due to the historic shift of population from state control to local control. The current framework breaks down silos and fosters collaboration to inform the important local planning framework that was developed as a direct response to the State transferring responsibility of a significant new public safety population to counties.

In 2011, Governor Brown signed AB 109 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011), which reflected a landmark shift in the State's approach to criminal justice through the transfer of criminal justice service delivery and responsibility to counties. This was done against the backdrop of a ruling by the US Supreme Court for the State to immediately drive down their population. The State, in a historic collaboration with the counties, had to develop a mechanism to avoid mass releases without regard to public safety. The result of that collaboration was a process that enabled local governments to plan for this shift responsibly. Associated with this realigned responsibility was the investment of funding to counties to carry out the transfer of populations and duties. Shifting the responsibilities for the justice population that was previously handled by the state to local counties required not only a funding shift, but protections that would enable counties to support the necessary investments to minimize the public safety impact.

Any roll back or impediments that threaten county operations under the guise of redirecting focus and/or resources away from the entities tasked with the responsibility of providing public safety is misguided, ill-advised and exacerbates public safety concerns.

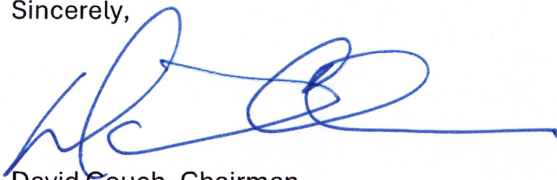
Public safety realignment, by its very framework, was designed with the goal of supporting each county to develop responses to the new duties, specifically the impacted jail and probation populations. While it is true that the populations being shifted have behavioral health needs, it is inaccurate to assume that is the only need of our populations or that Realignment was done to singularly address the delivery of behavioral health treatment. The population that CCP's develop support plans for require a multi-dimensional approach to meet a plethora of needs including jobs, housing, and education while also addressing criminogenic factors, safety risks, and court orders to balance accountability and rehabilitation. All these factors, in addition to behavioral health, impact our ability to supervise these populations safely and successfully.

It is inaccurate to assume that behavioral health needs are not already considered in CCP planning and resource distribution, and it is important to remember that funding for behavioral health needs of the justice population is not singularly contained within CCP funding. In fact, the state made changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other funding sources that have been identified to address this population's behavioral health and substance use disorder needs. The very purpose of probation is to align all of the needs, not elevate one over another in order to take on the job that was previously handled by the state. The CCP plays a critical role in coordinating local responses to address these many factors that not only serve the Realigned population but do so with the equally important outcome of public safety. The expertise of probation as re-entry experts supports the balance of our public safety mission through individualized responses and services for our populations. Placing other initiatives into this process as contemplated in this bill, will by definition redirect attention from the original purpose of the CCP while ignoring all the other planning and funding sources intended specifically for behavioral health treatment.

Setting forth a new purpose of CCPs is not integration, it is redirection. Counties, specifically jails and probation, were given new populations to serve with the CCP being the corresponding mechanism to plan care for these individuals through collaborative and locally responsive approaches. Repurposing this established process will impact and subordinate public safety and impact the needs of the realigned population.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors must oppose this legislation and respectfully requests that you vote **NO on AB 2882**.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Chief Probation Officers of California
California State Association of Counties
Kern County Probation Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange