

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 946 (Bryan), Chief Probation Officer designees – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Schultz,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to AB 946 (Bryan), which seeks to authorize the board of supervisors in counties with a population of at least 3.5 million to transfer all duties and authorities of probation departments—including both juvenile and adult probation services—to a county department focused on youth development.

This legislation would fundamentally alter the role of probation by shifting critical public safety responsibilities to a non-public safety entity. This includes the operation of juvenile halls and camps that provide supervision and care for youth involved in serious and violent offenses (including those realigned from the State Division of Juvenile Justice). It would also impact the supervision of individuals released from state prison onto Post-Release Community Supervision, felony and mandatory supervision, and the essential role of probation in making recommendations to the court.

Our Probation Department plays a vital role in balancing accountability and rehabilitation through evidence-based practices for youth, young adults, and adults involved in the justice system. We are deeply concerned about the potential consequences of this bill on public safety, the coordination of services at the county level, and the ability of the justice system to function effectively. The proposed changes would not only disrupt the continuity of services but also create significant challenges for the departments receiving these responsibilities and the communities they serve.

Kern County, while smaller than the 3.5 million population threshold specified in AB 946, is a large and diverse county with significant public safety and justice system responsibilities. We are concerned that this bill sets a dangerous precedent that could have serious implications for all jurisdictions across the state, potentially leading to broader efforts to dismantle or alter the role of probation in counties of all sizes.

This legislation also bears similarities to Los Angeles County's Measure A (2022), which granted the board of supervisors the authority to remove an elected sheriff from office. Both measures reflect a broader effort to shift power away from independent public safety entities and into the hands of politically appointed or non-public safety organizations. While Measure A directly targeted the authority of an elected law enforcement official, AB 946 would similarly undermine the role of county probation departments, which are crucial to maintaining public safety, overseeing rehabilitation efforts, and ensuring proper coordination within the justice system. Such shifts in authority raise concerns about transparency, accountability, and the potential politicization of public safety functions.

Probation departments have long been the foundation of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, ensuring a collaborative approach between courts, county agencies, and community organizations. The proposed redirection of responsibilities under AB 946 would compromise public safety, disrupt established service networks, and jeopardize the careful balance between supervision and treatment for youth and adults. Additionally, this bill raises serious concerns regarding local coordination, training requirements, fiscal impacts, and the implementation of state policies at the county level.

For these reasons, Kern County stands in strong opposition to AB 946. We urge you to consider the significant risks this bill presents to public safety and the integrity of our justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation  
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange