

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 10, 2026

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1660 (Schiavo), Strengthening Probate Code Enforcement – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 1660 (Schiavo), which will strengthen existing law for Public Guardians (PG), Public Conservators (PC), and Public Administrators (PA) by ensuring timely cooperation from financial institutions and third parties with lawful requests by allowing courts to impose fines when they fail to comply.

Under existing Probate Code, PGs, PCs, and PAs are granted the authority to secure property of conservatees and take control of a deceased's persons personal property, including bank accounts and safe deposit boxes. Unfortunately, it is common that banks – from large multinational institutions to small regional banks – deny or delay these requests. Lack of compliance from financial institutions leads to unnecessary estate and guardianship complications and can worsen existing financial disputes.

AB 1660 does not expand authority, rather, it enforces existing law by allowing courts to impose fines of no less than \$1,000 when financial institutions fail to work with administrators, guardians and conservators as it relates to these requests. AB 1660 would protect vulnerable clients from financial exploitation, reduce institutional resistance and delays, and strengthen enforcement that supports efficient case administration.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1660 and respectfully requests that your committee advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Aging and Adult Services
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange