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Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer Elisia De Bord



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December 5, 2023

The Honorable Corey Jackson Member of the Assembly 1021 O Street, Suite 6120 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 702 (Jackson). Local Government Financing: Juvenile Justice.

Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Jackson:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to oppose AB 702, which would recast and redirect Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding and would preclude probation departments from this funding.

JJCPA funding has been foundational to Sacramento County Probation's work to develop collaborative and multi-agency approaches to prevent juveniles from becoming more formally involved with the system and to successfully transition youth out of the system more quickly.

Regarding the changes to the composition to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and removal of the Chief Probation Officer as the Chair, the County supports and acknowledges the benefit of having multiple perspectives on this committee to develop the local plan; however, counties and probation are statutorily responsible for the safety and rehabilitation of youth locally, yet this bill removes probation from the role of ensuring that these plans are developed in coordination with stakeholders. Therefore, probation and counties take on the responsibility and liability without the ability to coordinate and guide plans.

Diverting important investments away from programs and services that probation is providing, particularly as the responsibility for transferring Department of Juvenile Justice youth to counties, would create significant instability and undercut the progress that has been made toward historic decreases in arrest and detention rates. We support the continued evolution and evaluation of our juvenile justice system to best serve youth and our communities; however, diverting important investments in local systems would create instability for the provision and support of our youth.

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For these reasons, Sacramento County opposes AB 702. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Delegation

Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors

Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies