

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

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April 7, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Umberg, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 413 (Allen) Juveniles: Case File Inspection. - Support
Hearing: April 8, 2025

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support SB 413 (Allen), which authorizes attorneys representing a party in a civil action or government claim involving child welfare or probation access to the juvenile case file while maintaining confidentiality protections.

SB 413 will address the slow and cumbersome undertaking the current Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 827 petition process requires. Sacramento County has seen a vast increase in civil litigation claims against Child Protective Services since the passage of AB 218 (2019). As a result, the volume of WIC § 827 petitions, **filed by both plaintiff's counsel and outside defense counsel for the County, has grown** exponentially. This increase and the number of records provided to the juvenile court for review on each case has created a significant delay in delivering records to the parties. Additionally, WIC § 827 court orders can be overly restrictive, inconsistent and/ or confusing requiring subsequent § 827 petitions to be filed to ultimately obtain the records necessary for the civil litigation. SB 413 will allow timely resolution of government tort claims while at the same time ensuring that the confidentiality rights of minors are protected.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports SB 413. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Elisia De Bord
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Hon. Benjamin Allen
Chair and Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors