



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## Board of Supervisors

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**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

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April 12, 2024

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 1057 (Menjivar): Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Menjivar,

We oppose SB 1057 on behalf of Mendocino County. This bill aims to create new processes that would repurpose, reprioritize, and redirect the expenditure of critical juvenile justice investments. Currently, these funds are spent following research-based standards and producing effective results. For instance, this funding has helped reduce youth detention rates by sixty percent and juvenile arrest rates by seventy-three percent across the state over the last decade. However, SB 1057 seeks to revise the composition of local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils and make changes to multiagency juvenile justice plans. This will disrupt the current collaborative and multi-agency approaches that have been essential in supporting an entire continuum that prevents juveniles from becoming more formally system involved.

The current system supports transparency and multi-disciplinary voices as fundamental pieces to advise the direction of these plans in our county. The County's probation department has invested in the evolution of the juvenile justice system over the past two decades by integrating system responses and focusing on the development of a continuum from prevention to re-entry.

If SB 1057 is passed, it would create further instability at a time when the County absorbs the responsibility and liability of moving the entire continuum to probation, and counties continue to advance the historical progress made to divert youth away from detention. This could potentially lead to a disruption in the current successful strategies and a setback in the progress we have made.

SB 1057 would impact County funding in several ways. Firstly, new language in the bill would allow the State via the Board of State and Community Corrections to withhold funding if a county fails to establish a juvenile justice coordinating council. This mechanism is subjective and unclear and sets a precedent for funding to counties to be withheld for service delivery provided by counties.

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Secondly, it establishes a new request for proposals process for these funds to be disbursed and would prohibit a law-enforcement-related agency from overseeing the process. Utilizing this process can result in bifurcated processes for funding the field and programs. It may further limit the ability to fund programs and efforts that reflect the multiagency plan.

Thirdly, redirection of important investments in local systems would create instability and diminution for the provision of necessary support and services for youth in our communities. The County has constitutional concerns associated with the requirement to redirect JJCPA resources, given that this funding resides within the 2011 fiscal structure that is constitutionally protected under the provisions of Proposition 30 (2012). This potential violation of constitutional rights could have serious legal implications and undermine the stability and effectiveness of our current system.

Lastly, the changes and additions proposed in SB 1057 for what must be included in the local plans and the annual report to the State would make it difficult for counties to meet the new requirements.

The County acknowledges and supports the benefit of having multiple perspectives on local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils. Local councils currently include at-large community members and representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations that provide services to minors. However, the County is concerned that the changes proposed in SB 1057 will adversely impact its stated goals. It is important to note that there are instances within the current committee composition where there have been challenges despite probation's best effort to obtain participation by all members. Requiring, rather than authorizing, additional members would create considerable obstacles.

Furthermore, the changes to the composition exacerbate the issues noted above regarding the ability of the state to withhold funding if a council is not established. Counties and probation are statutorily responsible for the safety and rehabilitation of all youth across the juvenile continuum. Yet, this bill removes probation from coordinating the planning process with these statutory duties. Therefore, probation and counties take on the responsibility and accountability for outcomes of juvenile services without the ability to coordinate and guide the plans to meet the goals, outcomes, and requirements.

In conclusion, it is still being determined how the approach in this bill, for the reasons outlined above, would support the advancement of integrated and coordinated delivery of juvenile prevention and diversion services. The provisions in this bill further bifurcate planning, program funding, and holistic efforts toward preventing juveniles from becoming more formally system involved.

Sincerely,



Maureen Mulheren, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, 2nd District