



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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March 24, 2025

The Honorable Isaac G. Bryan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 946 (Bryan) - Chief Probation Officer: Designee - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Bryan,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 946, which seeks to authorize the board of supervisors of a county with a population of at least 3.5 million people to delegate to a county department involved in youth development all of the duties and authorities in both the juvenile system as well as adult probation services provided in the criminal justice system that are statutorily imparted to probation departments and probation officers.

Specifically, this bill would redirect the authority and provision of services provided by probation to a non-public safety entity. This redirection of authority would include the operation of juvenile halls and camps that provide supervision and care for youth with the most serious and violent offenses, including youth and young adults realigned from the State Division of Juvenile Justice closure, supervision of individuals released from state prison onto Post Release Community Supervision, supervision of individuals on felony and mandatory supervision, and making recommendations to the court.

Our Probation Department has extensive training and experience in evidence-based approaches to working with youth, young adults, and adults. We are deeply concerned not only about the potential impacts of this bill on community safety, service coordination at the county level, coordination with the courts, and the justice system's ability to function effectively but also about similar impacts to recipient departments and the constituencies they serve.

County probation has long been a cornerstone of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, serving juveniles, emerging adults, and adults adjudicated or convicted of offenses ranging from minor misdemeanors to serious and violent felonies. Probation departments have built critical bridges in counties across the state between courts, county entities, and non-governmental organizations.

Redirecting these responsibilities would disrupt local service continuity, create public safety risks, and negatively impact community safety services. It raises questions about community safety, local coordination among entities, training requirements, fiscal impacts, and ensuring that state policies governing the juvenile and criminal justice systems are carried out locally.

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For these reasons, the County of Mendocino opposes Assembly Bill 946.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Haschak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: All Members and Consultants of the Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District
The Honorable Chris Rogers, California State Assembly, 2nd District