



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Tina McKinnor
Chairwoman, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5520

RE: AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements – OPPOSE

Dear Chairwoman McKinnor,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors opposes AB 339, which imposes costly, impractical, and burdensome requirements on local agencies that contract with service providers like nonprofits, community-based organizations, and private entities. This measure mandates a minimum notice period of 120 days before issuing contracts, along with extensive documentation and reporting requirements that could divert valuable resources from essential services, especially for California's most vulnerable populations.

AB 339 complicates the contracting process by introducing additional bureaucracy into a complex and lengthy process. It requires mandatory meetings with recognized employee organizations if they request to confer after receiving notice. Additionally, it would require parties to reopen negotiations on all or part of the MOU, which increases uncertainty. These provisions will significantly impact essential services such as wildfire management, public health, infrastructure maintenance, and emergency response, all of which require timely and flexible contracting. This could deter nonprofits and other providers from collaborating with local agencies and significantly increase costs.

The bill broadly affects many local services, from jail healthcare to IT consulting, meaning nearly every contract would be subject to its requirements. Compliance would demand significant staff time and resources, leading to increased workloads, reduced service capacity, and jeopardize vital programs.

The County of Mendocino opposes AB 339 due to the burden it places on resources, which could discourage community partnerships crucial for effective service delivery, especially in our rural community. Limiting these collaborations will likely lead to increased costs and cuts to essential services. This bill will raise costs, discourage private sector and nonprofit partnerships, and ultimately reduce the effectiveness of public services.

For these reasons, the County of Mendocino respectfully requests that you reject AB 339 when it is presented before your committee.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
The Honorable Chris Rogers, Member of the California State Assembly

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