

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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August 25, 2020

The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limon
State Capitol, Room 6031
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 823 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) – Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment
As amended 8/24/2020 – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Jackson and Assemblymember Limon:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors must regretfully oppose SB 823 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), the legislative alternative to the 2020-21 May Revision proposal to close, or “realign,” the state Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Regrettably, the County does not believe the approach in SB 823 – which substantially departs from the Administration’s framework in several critical areas – will achieve the goals of improving outcomes for this population of young people who often have complex treatment needs.

In alignment with CSAC, UCC and RCRC’s letter dated on August 23rd, the County of Santa Barbara is invested in a strong, vibrant, and responsive juvenile justice system. We understand the value of and share a commitment to keeping as many youth as possible close to home during periods of rehabilitation and detention; we are committed to a system design that does not result in more kids being referred to the adult court system; and we share the goals of producing improved and sustainable positive outcomes for system-involved youth. The approach in SB 823 features a three-pronged funding structure that leaves counties with considerable questions about the ability to support the complex needs of the youth and to catalyze needed programmatic capacity. As drafted, the totality of resources to be made available to counties and other eligible entities is unclear. Further, the legislative alternative in SB 823 confers considerable control and authority to a new, untested state office that will presumably require a considerable financial commitment that we would argue would be better invested in services at the local level to meet the needs of the youth population.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020 Legislative Platform, which includes the Inter-Agency Collaboration Principle that supports the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the: California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and other local and regional agencies.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors must oppose SB 823. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or NAnderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Josh Gauger, CSAC Legislative Advocate
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors