



May 17, 2023

The Honorable María Elena Durazo  
Chair, Senate and Budget Fiscal Review  
Subcommittee No. 5  
1021 O Street, Suite 7530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee  
No. 5  
1021 O Street, Suite 5620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Issue 5225 – California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Division of Juvenile Justice Closure  
Budget Issue 5227 – Board of State and Community Corrections; Public Defense Pilot Program and PRCS Funding**

Dear Chairs Durazo and Bonta:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in response to the Governor’s May Revision to offer the county perspective on three budget items in your subcommittees’ jurisdiction: (1) the imminent closure of the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the lack of resources associated with the population of youth and young adults who will transfer back to their county of commitment; (2) the Governor’s proposal – unchanged from the January budget – to eliminate the third and final year of funding from the Public Defense Pilot Project; and (3) the adjusted funding level to support PRCS caseload impacts.

***Item 5225: DJJ Realignment – County Resources Needed for Returning Youth***

As updated in the May Revision, approximately 150 young people will remain in the care and custody of DJJ on the final closure date of June 30, 2023. A vital component to the successful transition of this population to county care remains notably absent –county resources to ensure the appropriate programs and placements are available to fully support the youth and young adults once in local custody and care. When DJJ Realignment was conceived and enacted via SB 823 in 2020, the realignment design contemplated a prospective transfer of responsibility beginning on July 1, 2021; resources for those youth accompanied the shift in responsibility and were enumerated

in statute. Importantly, the SB 823 model also contemplated that youth who already were placed in a DJJ facility as of July 1, 2021 would finish their custody term in the state's care, and DJJ facilities would close only after all youth had been discharged. That key element of the realignment design changed with the enactment of SB 92 in 2021, which – among other provisions – set a hard closure date for DJJ facilities on June 30, 2023. Neither that bill nor any subsequent measure provides resources to support the treatment or housing needs of the returning DJJ population.

Successful reintegration of this particular population of young people in their home communities and longer-term success demonstrated by recidivism reduction can only be achieved if resources accompany the transfer of this high-need population. The vulnerability and destabilization caused by the move out of a state facility heighten the need for a seamless transfer into an individually designed treatment plan and developmentally appropriate therapeutic setting best suited to address the young person's needs. We would urge the Legislature to provide resources to counties in specific recognition of local responsibilities associated with providing a healing environment and facilitating needed treatment for those transitioning from the state to county care.

***Item 5227: Public Defense Pilot Project – Restoration of Third Year of Funding Needed***

As was noted in our March advocacy letter, our associations remain very appreciative of the Legislature's commitment to providing resources for the provision of indigent criminal defense services at the local level. Since 2021-22, the state budget has dedicated funding to support resentencing workloads in recognition of recent law changes. The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget would eliminate the third and final year of this funding at a time when counties' efforts to fulfill the promise of the Public Defense Pilot Program are demonstrating meaningful impact, and that proposal remains unchanged in the May Revision. We urge the Legislature to retain the final year of funding to allow the pilot program to fulfill its promise.

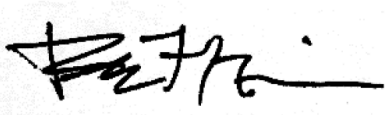
***Item 5227: Funding for Post-Release Community Supervision – Support May Revision Adjustment***

Finally, counties also support the state's continued investment in addressing Post-Release Community Supervision caseload impacts to counties resulting from implementation of various state prison population reduction strategies, including Proposition 57 – the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016. The May Revision

appropriately increases the budget year amount by \$1.1 million as compared to the January spending plan. CSAC, RCRC, and UCC strongly support the \$9.3 million, which reflects the amount necessary to address probation workload associated with individuals released early to probation supervision.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for a continued partnership in carrying out local initiatives.

Sincerely,



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