



January 8, 2020

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 315 (Garcia) – Local government: lobbying associations: expenditure of public funds
As Amended January 6, 2020 – OPPOSE
Set for hearing January 15, 2020 – Assembly Local Government Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write in opposition to Assembly Bill 315, by Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, which would restrict county-associated organizations from performing many of the services we provide on counties' behalf.

AB 315 would not only restrict (and in some cases outright prohibit) much of our work on counties' behalf, it would also create punitive barriers to prevent association staff from providing resources and support to California's 58 counties. It would restrict local government advocacy associations (but not trade, public interest, for-profit, or any other category of association) to spending on only narrowly-defined lobbying or education activities.

The primary purpose of our associations is to represent county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies, and the federal government. As such, our organizations place a strong emphasis on educating the public and public officials about the value and need for county programs and services.

Our associations' collective long-term objective is to maintain and improve the well-being of all California counties so they can adequately meet the demand for vital public programs and services, which we play a role in coordinating, facilitating, refining, and expanding. Our organizations employ individuals to fill a diverse number of roles, from lobbying to communications and outreach to executive and administrative personnel.

AB 315 does not account for the diverse responsibilities our organizations undertake in order to truly serve diverse local governments. If it were to go into effect, it would inhibit our ability to conduct outreach, seek feedback on policies and procedures, coordinate efforts between counties, recognize innovative county service models, and mobilize support and resources in the wake of natural disasters, among many other services we provide.

As representatives of California's counties, the state's partner in delivering critical local services, we cannot fathom that a reduced level of advocacy, education, and input is an appropriate or desired policy outcome. For all these reasons, when AB 315 comes before your Local Government Committee, we strongly urge your "no" vote. Please feel free to call any of us if you have questions about our position.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Darby Kernan

Deputy Executive Director of Legislative Affairs

California State Association of Counties



Executive Director

County Health Executives Association of California

Jean Kinney Hurst

Legislative Advocate

Urban Counties of California



Paul Smith

Vice President, Governmental Affairs

Rural County Representatives of California



Frank Mecca

Executive Director

County Welfare Directors Association of California



Karen Keeslar

Executive Director

California Association of Public Authorities



Greg Wilson

Executive Director

Child Support Directors Association of California



Michelle Gibbons



Karen Lange

Executive Director

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Local Government Committee
The Honorable Cristina Garcia, California State Assembly