July 11, 2023

Senator Nancy Skinner

Chair, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review

1020 N Street, Room 502

Sacramento, CA 95814

SENT VIA EMAIL: SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov

**Subject: Assembly Bill/Senate Bill 120 Human Services - OPPOSE**

Senator Skinner:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing to respectfully oppose trailer bill AB Bill/SB 120, which was recently amended to contain a provision that would increase the existing In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) collective bargaining penalty from a one-time, seven percent of the county Maintenance of Effort (MOE) amount to an ongoing ten percent of the county MOE amount.

This proposal was included with zero public input, no consultation with counties, including Siskiyou County, and was not discussed at any budget hearings this year. Counties throughout the state, including Siskiyou, are making significant progress on collective bargaining and have made ongoing investments of hundreds of millions of dollars for permanent IHSS provider wage increases in the past several years.

This proposal unfairly punishes all counties including those counties that are consistently increasing IHSS provider wage increases. The proposed ongoing ten percent penalty amount will allow every county to be leveraged into a $1.00 wage increase. Siskiyou County simply cannot afford such an increase without taking funding away from other safety net programs including Social Services, and Behavioral Health. If the state is interested in dictating the outcome of local bargaining, the state should assume responsibility for bargaining or provide funding for these mandated increases.

In summary, Siskiyou County opposes the IHSS collective bargaining penalty included in AB/SB 120, and we ask for this language to be removed from the bill.

Sincerely,

Ed Valenzuela

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Brian Dahle

 Rural County Representative of California (RCRC)

 California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

 Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange