



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
State of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 505 (Ting) – The Office of Youth and Community Restoration - Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors writes to respectfully request your veto of AB 505 (Ting) which would upend key elements of the important reforms you championed as part of the realignment of juvenile justice to counties. We have also included as part of this letter, Attachment A, which is our letter of opposition from August 25th.

AB 505 creates unnecessary and compounding barriers in sub-committee, plan approval, and funding allocation processes, all of which will negatively affect the ability of counties to provide integral direct service delivery to young adults aged 18-25.

These young people who are now to be served by counties following the closure of the state Division of Juvenile Justice just two months ago are in need of a whole host of support and services to ensure successful reintegration into their communities. These support systems and services include behavioral health, substance use disorder services, physical health, and supportive and/or transitional housing, just to name a few.

Inexplicably, this measure seeks to make our ability to provide these services to the emerging adults in our care unnecessarily difficult. It does so by making funding contingent upon new requirements beyond existing law including meeting at least twice per year, updating the plan annually (vs every three years), and addressing issues with the plan as deemed problematic by OYCR with no statutory guidance regarding requirements or timeline to address.

Brandon Criss
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5

From the perspective of a rural county, we have our own identifiable challenges to contend with. AB 505 will only add another layer of unnecessary complexity and compromise the minimal resources we have. This bill has the potential to prevent progress, hold back the spirit to support change, and reduce the opportunities California's youth deserve here in Siskiyou County.

The changes proposed in AB 505 cannot be viewed in a silo due to their intersecting and compounding effect on one another. Further, and even more disconcertingly, these changes will also bring about negatively reverberating fiscal, resource, and staffing pressures affecting the other juvenile populations served by county probation.

There are deep concerns regarding the changes proposed under this bill that will result in significant disruption to our juvenile justice system and the youth we serve.

For these reasons, we urge you to veto AB 505.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Ed Valenzuela
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblywoman Megan Dahle
Senator Brian Dahle
Rural County Representative of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)
Christy Bouma, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor

ATTACHMENT A

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

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August 25, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: AB 505 (Ting) – The Office of Youth and Community Restoration – OPPOSED

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is sending this letter to respectfully oppose AB 505, by Assembly Member Phil Ting, which seeks to make changes to several key provisions of SB 823, the 2020 legislation that realigned full responsibility for the juvenile justice continuum to county governments.

As described in the August 18, 2023, letter from the California State Association of Counties et al., we acknowledge recent efforts to narrow the scope of AB 505 and appreciate recent amendments. However, we remain concerned with several provisions of the bill which if implemented would disrupt the vital governance principle that responsibility must be accompanied by the authority to implement. As stated in the August 18, 2023, letter “The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) realignment framework enacted in SB 823 is explicit with respect to realigning responsibility from the state to county governments for the population of young people who previously were eligible for placement in a DJJ facility and under the state’s jurisdiction. AB 505 would erect barriers to counties’ efforts to thoughtfully and successfully carry out DJJ realignment by fracturing the important link between the responsibility for addressing the needs of youth previously under state jurisdiction and the authority to develop, guide, implement, and support a responsive local plan”.

Our opposition is primary to the provisions related to our authority to make local expenditure decisions (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] Section 1991) along with changes in WIC Section 1995 to the subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council. It is very concerning that the subcommittee charged with developing a plan to support and treat the young people in our care and custody could be deprived of the leadership and guidance of the county department head responsible and fully accountable for carrying out the realigned responsibilities.

From a fiscal perspective, as further detailed in the August 18, 2023, letter “AB 505 continues to contemplate considerable and newly mandated state and local costs associated with all of the following: expanded inspections of local juvenile detention facilities; new processes and responsibilities for local planning subcommittees, including mandated meeting frequency, mandated plan updates annually versus every three years, and newly required elements in the local

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plan; potential funding delays given interactions between WIC Section 1995 (e) and (f); and, finally, broadened OYCR responsibilities given required annual site visits and added requirements to accessing the expansive list of county records defined in the bill, all of which will have an impact on county staffing and resources”.

For the reasons above Siskiyou County must oppose AB 505.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Board of Supervisors

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