



August 3, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Lara:

Providence St. Joseph Health strongly opposes AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). The bill would impose undue burdens on counties' ability to contract with non-profit organizations and health care providers, thus jeopardizing the delivery of vital services across the counties we serve, including Humboldt, Sonoma, Napa, Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. Services impacted by this bill could include trauma and emergency care, school-based mental health services, mental health crisis services, public health programs, and child abuse prevention programs.

Providence St. Joseph Health is a not-for-profit health system that includes a diverse family of organizations dedicated to providing for the needs of communities across our state, with a special focus on those who are poor and vulnerable. In California, we are: Providence Health & Services, including Facey Medical Foundation; and St. Joseph Health, including St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare and the St. Joseph Hoag Health alliance. Working in 18 award-winning hospitals, 238 medical clinics and an array of other care and services, our 28,900 caregivers (all employees) serve with distinction across California.

AB 1250 would have a devastating effect on local health, mental health and human services. We do not believe there is a legitimate policy concern that the bill seeks to address. The bill would simply restrict counties' abilities to contract for the efficient, effective delivery of health, mental health and human services, resulting in decreased access to services – or even the outright elimination of some services – for the most vulnerable in our population.

We believe public/private partnerships are critical to providing key services to the most vulnerable individuals in our communities. AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens on counties, community-based organizations and health care providers for the purpose of discouraging these types of successful partnerships. Counties would be required to meet impossibly high criteria to demonstrate prior to contracting for a service that they in no conceivable way are jeopardizing any job held by any county employee. The bill would require non-profit organizations and health care providers to conduct extensive audits at their own expense and to disclose personal information including the names and hourly pay of their employees, subjecting that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant privacy concerns for our employees.

For these reasons, Providence St. Joseph Health strongly urges your "NO" vote on AB 1250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Tou".

Michael Tou
Director, Government Relations