



July 26, 2017

The Honorable Patricia Bates
California State Senate, 36th District
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Bates:

On behalf of The Raise Foundation, Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), I write to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). The Raise Foundation serves over 21,000 children, parents and families in Orange County each year providing access to family strengthening support services. In addition, our public awareness and educational efforts reach more than 750,000 individuals annually.

For over 40 years The Raise Foundation has been designated by our County Board of Supervisors as Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (under the Welfare and Institutions Code). Our private/public partnership has been an important, if not critical, aspect of providing high-quality family strengthening services. In addition, this partnership (made possible through a contractual relationship) has saved taxpayer resources while increasing access to services for vulnerable families and children through the leveraging of donated goods and services. Donations made possible due to our standing as a 501.c.3 nonprofit, charitable entity.

AB 1250 would, if enacted, impose a de facto prohibition on counties' abilities to contract with nonprofit organizations, such as The Raise Foundation, as well as other business and economic development organizations. AB 1250 will place at risk significant portions of our existing vital services which help protect vulnerable children and strengthen families to better care for their children. AB 1250 will not only impact Orange County, but will negatively impact access to vital services across California, including health, social services, public safety and other core functions of counties.

As Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council, we have witnessed firsthand the important role public/private partnerships have played in providing critically needed human and social services. In Orange County alone, these partnerships provide expert care, support, treatment and support to tens of thousands of vulnerable children, foster youth and families each year.

AB 1250 will impose unrealistic and costly burdens on counties and community based organizations for the obviously sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships. Under this bill, counties would be required to meet impossibly high criteria to demonstrate (prior to contracting for services) that they are not jeopardizing any job held by a county employee.

Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council
"Preventing Child Abuse By Strengthening Families"
2900 Bristol Street, Ste. J-201, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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The Raise Foundation is a private, non-profit organization Tax ID #33-0240178



AB 1250 will also impose significant new burdens on community based organizations and private sector contractors. It requires contractors to conduct, at their own expense, extensive and unnecessary audits. It will require us to disclose personal information, including the names and hourly rates of our employees and any subcontractors and the compensation rates for those workers – subjecting that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant concerns over privacy of personal information for organizations such as ours as well as our employees.

At best, the restrictions AB 1250 would place on counties' abilities to contract for the expertise and most efficient delivery of services will in no doubt result in major restrictions on access to services for at-risk families. At worst, AB 1250 will lead to an outright elimination of some services that are critical to helping and protecting the most vulnerable.

It should be clear that there is no legitimate public policy concern that AB 1250 seeks to address. This bill simply serves to restrict counties abilities to contract for efficient, accessible and cost effect delivery of services.

We respectfully request you oppose AB 1250.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish further comment or explanation of our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eldon Baber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eldon" and last name "Baber" clearly legible.

Eldon Baber
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly