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empowering lgbt orange county

September 11, 2017 - updated September 12 to include additional organizations

The Honorable Evan Low, Chair  
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Vice Chair  
California Legislative LGBT Caucus  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) – as amended September 5, 2017**

Dear Assemblyman Low and Senator Lara,

On behalf of our centers, we write to urge you to vote no on AB 1250.

As nonprofit organizations which contract with counties to provide essential health care, counseling, education, HIV, drug recovery and other critical services to LGBTQ members of our respective communities, we are alarmed at the onerous provisions of AB 1250. The bill adds significant costs to contracting, requires duplicative or inappropriate processes, and restricts counties' ability to engage our services without boosting real accountability. The bill's disclosure requirements conflict with other privacy laws and a pressing obligation we have to keep our employees and subcontractors' employees safe.

There are important reasons that counties turn to us to partner with them. And we believe we have earned the public's trust to deliver quality services, operate efficiently and spend money wisely.

We are especially concerned about the timing of AB 1250. Our clients are particularly fearful right now and some are shying away from government contact. We have built trusted relationships in our communities. With a federal administration that has suggested significant funding cuts and taken aim at LGBTQ Americans, our organizations and the people we serve are under particular threat.

We are allies with labor on opposing the privatization of government jobs. But AB 1250 distorts how decisions should be made about providing critical services for our communities. A county's decision to allocate funds for services is complex, and includes technical expertise, experience, efficiency, cultural and linguistic competency, and geography. At the core of county agency and board of supervisor decisions is a commitment to community.

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We urge you to consider these concerns, vote no on AB 1250, and help steward an effort to find common ground on solutions that balance the interests of government employees, the role of nonprofits in communities, and the needs of LGBTQ Californians.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson  
Chief Executive Officer  
The LGBT Community Center of The Desert  
Palm Springs

Lorri L. Jean  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Los Angeles

Brian Poth  
Executive Director  
The Source LGBT + Center  
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Peg Corley  
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David Heitstuman  
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Roberto Isaac Ordeñana  
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SF LGBT Center  
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Porter Gilberg  
Executive Director  
The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach  
Long Beach

Leslie Ewing  
Executive Director  
Pacific Center  
Berkeley

Nicholas Hatten  
Executive Director  
San Joaquin Pride Center  
Stockton

cc: Members, California Legislative LGBT Caucus  
Senate President Pro Tem Kevin DeLeon  
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer