



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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March 26, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Laura Richardson,
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable James Ramos,
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 6
1021 O Street, Suite 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 678 (Leno, 2009) Draft Trailer Bill Language – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Gabriel, Senator Richardson, and Assemblymember Ramos,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to express support for the proposed updates to the SB 678 (2009) methodology outlined in the Governor's January budget proposal. As a County that has benefited from the successes of SB 678 (2009), we recognize the significant impact this program has had on reducing prison admissions, supporting evidence-based supervision practices, and enhancing community safety.

SB 678 (2009) is a landmark policy that established, for the first time, a state funding source for adult probation. This funding enables investment in evidence-based supervision and treatment interventions to reduce probation admissions to state prisons. The program has successfully decreased reliance on incarceration in California and has saved taxpayers over a billion dollars in state prison costs. Moreover, it has improved rehabilitation efforts without increasing crime rates. The success of probation under SB 678 (2009) has been a foundation for smart criminal justice reforms focused on reducing state prison admissions while ensuring accountability through community supervision and alternatives to incarceration. Statewide, felony probation admissions to prison have decreased from nearly 8% at the program's inception to 2.5% in 2024.

Last year's state budget included language expressing the intent to review the allocation methodology for the SB 678 (2009) grant program, aligning to provide sustainable funding for improved evidence-based probation supervision practices and enhance public safety outcomes.

The Governor's January budget proposes to update the methodology for calculating incentive payments to counties, aiming to increase the performance-based nature of the funding and reduce variability in

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the previous methodology. Following consultations with the Department of Finance, the California Probation Officers' Association (CPOC) supports the Administration's proposed changes to the formula. While these changes will result in a reduction of more than \$10 million in the 2025-26 allocation compared to the current statutory framework, the proposed formula adjustments achieve a delicate balance: they enhance funding stability through performance maintenance payments while encouraging further reductions in prison admissions through refreshed performance incentive payments.

Mendocino County supports the added stability proposed for this critical program, which enhances public safety and yields significant savings for the state in prison and parole costs.

We urge the Legislature to support the proposed changes to the SB 678 (2009) methodology to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of this landmark program. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of effective probation practices in California.

Sincerely,



John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members Assembly Budget Subcommittee 6
Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee 5
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District
The Honorable Chris Rogers, California State Assembly, 2nd District