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August 19, 2022

To: County Supervisors
County Administrators/Executives
County Legislative Coordinators
County Caucus

From: Ed Valenzuela, CSAC President and Siskiyou County Supervisor
Chuck Washington, CSAC 1st Vice President and Riverside County Supervisor
Bruce Gibson, CSAC 2nd Vice President and San Luis Obispo County Supervisor
James Gore, Immediate Past President and Sonoma County Supervisor
Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director

RE: **CSAC Action Alert: CARE Courts**

CALL TO ACTION: Contact your legislative delegation and the Governor’s Office by Monday, August 22, and deliver this message:

CARE Court risks failure without addressing outstanding county fiscal concerns.

CSAC along with our county partners have been successful in making improvements to SB 1338, but discussions continue with the Administration regarding our outstanding concerns. The two-year session is rapidly drawing to a close, and the bill amendment deadline is approaching even sooner (next week on August 25). We ask for your assistance in lifting up the county voice regarding ***the following critical fiscal issues that remain unaddressed:***

1. **Start-up funding:** While the Administration has acknowledged that counties will incur costs to implement the new program, they have not yet provided initial funding for counties to prepare to implement the new county CARE Court duties successfully.

CSAC and the county coalition continue to advocate for **\$100 million** in flexible start-up funding to be allocated to all participating counties. Establishing the program will require significant up-front investments in the areas of workforce, technology, and other initial planning and implementation needs.

2. **Ongoing funding:** The Administration and Legislature have not yet formally committed to providing ongoing funding for county responsibilities imposed by the CARE Court program to ensure effective implementation statewide. While the proposal continues to evolve, we expect the program will likely cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually for new local responsibilities.

We are seeking a formal statutory commitment to adequate, ongoing funding to counties.

3. **Fiscal protections:** Counties need protection against unfunded mandates in the CARE Court program. CSAC and county partners continue to advocate for local fiscal protections in the event adequate funding is not provided by the state.

The issues above must be addressed to provide counties with a realistic opportunity to successfully implement the Administration's vision for the CARE Court program. We urge the Legislature to insist on addressing these fiscal issues that will make this program implementable for counties while assisting program participants. ***Please call or text your legislative delegation as soon as possible before Monday, August 22, at noon.***

Visit [CSAC's CARE Court webpage](#) for news and resources.

Thank you,

Ed Valenzuela, CSAC President and Siskiyou County Supervisor
Chuck Washington, CSAC 1st Vice President and Riverside County Supervisor
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