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CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
OF CALIFORNIA

June 24, 2026

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1157 (Archuleta) - CPOC Sponsor

Dear Chair Schultz,

On behalf of the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), we are pleased to sponsor Senate Bill 1157, which would establish a safety framework for specified Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs).

With the passage of SB 823 (2020), the entirety of California's juvenile justice system is now administered by counties. Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) and Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) were established as part of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closure and the associated transfer of supervisory and detention authority of DJJ youth and DJJ qualifying youth to counties. While a youth may be ordered by the court into an LRP in the community, jurisdiction remains with probation as this is part of the court ordered custody within the WIC 875 continuum. The concern is there is currently no framework to address the governance concerns for LRPs located in the community, nor are there set expectations for their operations. This bill requires judicial placement determinations to be informed by safety considerations and liability concerns when transitioning the highest need and highest risk youth and young adults in the state from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities to congregate residential programs in the community as part of their baseline term.

Despite the establishment of LRPs as an option for courts to consider upon progress of a young adult, statute does not establish a framework when the identified program is a congregate residential setting not otherwise governed or regulated by a government or public entity. Because these programs are part of their custodial term, which, prior to SB 823 would have been served entirely at DJJ and not a part of post jurisdiction or release, it's critical that there is a framework in place. Without these most basic criteria, counties, courts and other stakeholders may not have the confidence necessary to utilize this tool.

SB 1157 simply establishes a framework for providing information to the courts in making decisions to transfer a youth to a congregate residential program as to whether an LRP adheres to the young person's case plan and accountability measures, performs staff background checks, obtains appropriate insurance, and has provided notice to the city and county in which it operates. Having these types of criteria is an important aspect as it relates to the use of taxpayer funds, particularly as no parameters have been established to date for the costs of these programs when created as part of the DJJ closure.

These criteria are necessary as LRPs are serving individuals who are the highest need, have committed the most serious offenses within the juvenile justice system, and as previously stated, would have otherwise been serving the entirety of their custodial time at a secure state DJJ facility but for SB 823 (2020). This is a significant design flaw in the closure of DJJ and without SB 1157 we risk not only the safety of the community but also endangering the youth and young adults placed in our care.

For these reasons, CPOC is pleased to sponsor Senate Bill 1157 to resolve unaddressed issues resulting from the enactment of the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and to ensure that programmatic frameworks are in place to best serve these youth and young adults and the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Sanchez
Legislative Director

Cc: The Honorable Bob Archuleta, Member, California State Senate
Members and Counsel of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety