



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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July 3, 2023

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Senate Health Committee, Chair  
1021 O Street, Suite 3310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **ASSEMBLY BILL 912 (JONES-SAWYER) SUPPORT Senate Health Committee**

Dear Senator Eggman:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 912 (Jones-Sawyer).

AB 912 would enact the Strategic Anti-Violence Funding Efforts (SAFE) Act which reinvests the cost savings that occur from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) prison closures to fund early violence intervention programs, school-based physical and mental health services, and youth recreational activities.

The SAFE Act calls for the reallocation of the \$235 million in annual savings from the proposed closure of two prisons in the 2023-24 state budget. Those funds will go to the following programs:

- 1) \$50 million annually to relocate the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program from the Board of State and Community Corrections to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration. Grants are available for local jurisdictions and California tribes for trauma-informed diversion programs for minors.
- 2) \$35 million annually to the Department of Justice for the purpose of programs that reduce gang violence and gang involvement, modeled after successful programs like Ceasefire in Oakland that resulted in a 43% reduction in homicides and a 50% reduction in non-fatal shootings.
- 3) \$50 million annually to the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to provide operational grants to School-based Health Centers and provide health and mental health services to children on school sites.
- 4) \$50 million annually to the California Health and Human Services Agency to support a pilot program for Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) in Alameda, Fresno, Merced, Tulane, Kern and Los Angeles. This program supports early trauma-informed interventions for school-aged

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children experiencing extreme traumatic events in support of their health, well-being and community stability.

5) \$50 million annually to the Department of Parks and Recreation in support of grants to local governments and community-based organizations to create new parks and fund recreation and health-based opportunities during peak times of violence.

The \$235 million in savings that will result from these prison closures should stay in the public safety arena to help further reduce the number of individuals who become involved in our criminal justice system.

Reinvesting the cost savings from the CDCR prison closures into programs that reduce violence, provide diversion opportunities, and deliver critical community supports, including mental health, education and vocational services is smart criminal justice reform and an effective way to reduce crime and violence.

For these reasons I am proud to support AB 912 and respectfully request your AYE vote.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,



GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer