

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Linda J. Seifert (Dist. 2), Chair
(707) 784-3031
James P. Spering (Dist. 3), Vice-Chair
(707) 784-6136
Barbara R. Kondylis (Dist. 1)
(707) 553-5363
John M. Vasquez (Dist. 4)
(707) 784-6129
Michael J. Reagan (Dist. 5)
(707) 784-6130



County Administrator
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO
(707) 784-6100
Fax (707) 784-6665

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
<http://www.co.solano.ca.us>

June 26, 2012

The Honorable Lois Wolk
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 1831 (Dickinson): Local government: hiring practices
As amended 6/11/2012—OPPOSE**

Dear Chairwoman Wolk:

I write on behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, which has taken a position to **OPPOSE AB 1831 (Dickinson)**, which would prohibit a local agency from inquiring about the criminal history of an applicant on an initial employment application.

AB 1831 removes the discretion of a Board of Supervisor to design an employment policy that works locally, instead applying a one-size-fits all approach to public agencies, which ultimately decide what hiring practices are best for their employees. Solano County serves many vulnerable populations, including numerous positions and classifications within county employment, such as social workers, staff in the child protective services, child support and elder abuse, who undergo a background check in order to protect the needs of local residents utilizing those services. In some cases certain criminal convictions will absolutely preclude employment with a local agency. In those situations there is no purpose in extending the hiring process to include persons that will, without fail, eventually be excluded from employment.

AB 1831 also delays when a county employer may inquire into the criminal history of a job applicant, which not only delays the application process but also increased costs for counties. We maintain that public agencies should have the discretion to ask for criminal histories in the initial application process for positions we have determined a criminal record is pertinent to the position. However, AB 1831 removes the ability for local governments to practice their best judgment in hiring practices, and instead creates a one-size-fits approach.

The Honorable Lois Wolk

Page 2

June 26, 2012

Furthermore, the bill unfairly applies to cities and counties alone. It seems that if reducing barriers to employment for people with criminal histories is the goal of this legislation, it ought to apply uniformly to all employers across the board including the State of California.

For these reasons, the Solano County Board of Supervisors is **OPPOSED** to **AB 1831**, and respectfully urges you to vote “**NO**” when this bill is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,



Linda Seifert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members and Consultants of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Honorable Roger Dickinson
The Honorable Noreen Evans
The Honorable Lois Wolk
The Honorable Michael Allen
The Honorable Mariko Yamada
The Honorable Susan Bonilla
Paul Yoder, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.