



Board of Supervisors

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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Richard Roth
Member of the California Senate
State Capitol, Room 4034
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 39 (Roth) – Suspension and allocation of judgeships
As introduced 12/5/2016 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 39, your measure that would suspend four vacant superior court judgeships in jurisdictions with more judicial positions than their assessed need warrants and reallocate those positions to high-caseload jurisdictions. Further, SB 39 specifies that the determination of judicial need be performed in accordance with a methodology approved by the Judicial Council. This measure awaits hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

As you are aware, the Judicial Council, in its biennial Judicial Needs Assessment most recently published in Fall 2016, identifies overall statewide judicial officer needs and then prioritizes placement of those positions on the basis of workload across 31 courts. The 2016 assessment identifies a need for 188.5 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands. Further, the assessment compares each local court's assessed judicial need against its authorized judicial positions. Riverside County, regrettably, stands above all others in terms of overall need – the superior court's workload warrants an additional 46.8 judicial officers (a figure that is 62 percent greater than the level of judicial positions presently authorized). Steep population growth in Riverside County over the last several decades has greatly outpaced the trial court's ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources.

The County of Riverside greatly appreciates your effort to address the issue of judicial resources in the Inland Empire. SB 39 recognizes the imbalance in the current distribution of judicial resources across the state and seeks to reassign vacancies to high-caseload jurisdictions. We understand the policy interest in more rationally distributing existing judicial positions as a first step in addressing the critical need for additional resources statewide. The application of the provisions of SB 39 would likely result in additional resources for the superior court in Riverside County. The measure would improve our mutual constituents' access to justice and assist our



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county criminal justice partners in carrying out their critical functions and fulfilling core county responsibilities related to matters before the court.

For these reasons, Riverside County is pleased to support SB 39, and we stand ready to assist you as the measure makes its way through the legislative process. If you have any questions about the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer, Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rceo.org.

Sincerely,



John Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable John M. W. Moorlach, Vice Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members and Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members, Riverside County Delegation