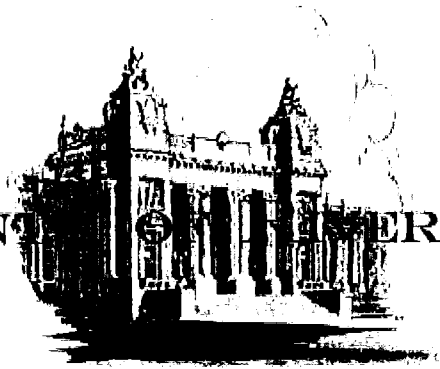


COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3 <i>Chairman</i>	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Richard Pan
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: SB 1303 (Pan) - Coroner: county office of the medical examiner
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform
As amended 3/22/2018 - Awaiting hearing in Senate Public Safety Committee

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully oppose SB 1303, your measure that would require specified counties to change the local organizational structure with respect to investigating and determining the circumstances and manner of certain deaths.

Under SB 1303, counties with a population of more than 500,000 with a consolidated sheriff-coroner office – which includes the County of Riverside – would be required to abolish the office of the coroner and establish an independent office of the medical examiner. The measure then spells out specific organizational elements of the office of medical examiner as well as qualifications for the medical examiner and his or her staff.

Under current law, counties have clear and unfettered authority to create a separate office of the medical examiner. Indeed, several jurisdictions have done so. SB 1303 would – irrespective of the current circumstances in a given county and without regard to a jurisdiction's capacity to assume new and likely substantial costs associated with operating the office of the medical examiner – eliminate the local boards of supervisors' authority in making an important local governance decision. Further, we also believe it is important to acknowledge the existing shortage of pathologists nationwide, which would be exacerbated by the new requirements set forth in SB 1303.

The County of Riverside believes that the duly elected board of supervisors remains the most appropriate body to evaluate fiscal and operational impacts associated with organizing the County's many vital functions. For this reason, we must respectfully oppose SB 1303. 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@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Riverside County Delegation