



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

September 19, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 734 (DeSaulnier) – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Brown:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully requests that you veto SB 734, legislation that would impose expenditure requirements on local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) related to federal Workforce Investment Act funds. This bill would also require local WIBs that do not meet the expenditure requirements to provide a correction action plan to the Employment Development Department.

This bill would eliminate the authority of local WIBs to determine how to best serve their residents. Specifically, SB 734 requires that by program year 2016, local WIBs must invest a minimum of 30 percent of their federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I funding on specific job training activities.

California is highly diversified and challenged by an unemployment rate over twelve percent. The diversity challenge is magnified at the local level, with 13.6 of every 100 residents currently unemployed in San Bernardino County. Our County's local WIB excels in meeting the challenge of diversity and guides employment services. The combination of existing program flexibility and the unique membership of the County's local WIB provide a balanced composition to best address the needs of our region and fuel the needs of our State.

Decisions on how and where resources are best deployed are issues that should not be legislated. These issues should be taken up by the California Workforce Investment Board with local input. Under WIA, customer choice drives demand. Attempts to legislate program activities will limit case management, career planning, and employment services infrastructure – all of which are vital resources for job seekers in this economy. This legislation will limit the number of individuals that can be served and will place a cap on core WIA services. Simply measuring a percentage of the dollars spent on training does not indicate levels of effectiveness.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully request that you veto SB 734. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR
Board of Supervisors