



Senator Steven Bradford

REPRESENTING THE 35TH DISTRICT

SB 493 – The PROMYSE Act

SUMMARY

SB 493, The PROMYSE (Promoting Youth Success and Empowerment) Act, improves the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act by ensuring adequate oversight, equitable decision-making, and effective investments prioritizing youths' most critical needs in communities.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was enacted to support youth locally and limit their involvement in the justice system. For twenty years, county spending has fallen short of the bill's original goals.

Since 2000, youth arrests have declined by over 80 percent, accompanied by major drops in referrals to probation. However, most counties spend the majority of their JJCPA funds on probation staffing with little to none invested in community-based organizations (CBOs). Some counties have even used JJCPA funds for probation programs that resulted in net-widening, which can have negative impacts on youth participants and their families.

Organizations and agencies providing services for youth in marginalized communities have been hard hit financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill ensures stable funding for critical services run by schools, public health agencies, and CBOs to support at-promise and justice-involved youth.

PROBLEM

The California State Auditor released a report in May 2020 verifying long-held concerns about poor JJCPA spending, decision-making, and reporting. The audit included an in-depth review of a diverse sample of counties, finding that counties maintained severely

outdated spending plans. Additionally, counties' reporting failed to demonstrate whether their JJCPA-funded programs have been effective. In Fiscal Year 2019-20, the state spent \$167 million on the non-competitive JJCPA grant without adequate oversight nor accountability.

While each county is required to make JJCPA funding decisions through a Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the audit found that counties left mandatory stakeholder seats vacant. In fact, 20 percent of all California counties lacked a JJCC during the audit review period.

Four of the five counties sampled spent over 75 percent of their Fiscal Year 2017–18 JJCPA funds on probation departments. This spending runs counter to JJCPA goals since probation supervision can pull youth deeper into the system and have lasting collateral consequences on youths' educational and employment outcomes. Community-based programs centered on positive youth development can better serve youth and fulfill the original vision for JJCPA.

SOLUTION

SB 493 addresses chronic shortcomings of JJCPA implementation and serves as a stimulus for public health, education, and CBO sectors. This bill will:

- Reform JJCC requirements to ensure equitable (at least 50 percent) community representation in improved decision-making processes.
- Require counties to distribute at least 95 percent of allotted JJCPA funds to CBOs and/or public agencies that are non-law enforcement agencies.
- Strengthen county reporting and evaluations by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) by including critical evidence such as youth served and program effectiveness.



SPONSORS

- Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) California Action
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)
- Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, California
- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Children's Defense Fund – California
- Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)
- MILPA Collective
- National Center for Youth Law
- Urban Peace Institute
- W. Haywood Burns Institute
- Youth Justice Coalition

CONTACT

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