



Chair
Supervisor Liz Kniss
Executive Director
Jolena L. Voorhis

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September 13, 2011

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 734 (DeSaulnier) – Workforce Investment Boards: Funding
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Urban Counties Caucus (UCC), a coalition of California's most populous counties, is in opposition to SB 734 (DeSaulnier), which is pending on your desk. This bill would require that twenty-five percent of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds spent by local workforce investment boards (WIB) be used for training beginning in 2012 with an increase to thirty percent in 2016.

Urban counties are opposed to prescribing a specific amount of funding for workforce training due to the differences and local priorities that are present in California. There are vast differences between various regions in the state and while some require training services others need basic job search assistance. In addition, federal law requires that training providers consider the availability of other sources of grants to pay for training costs so that WIA funds supplement other sources of training grants. Therefore, this bill could affect a WIB's ability to comply with federal law.

As partners with the state in the delivery of services and with the enactment of the 2011 Realignment package, counties are opposed to any bill that restricts flexibility, is overly prescriptive, or does not take into account the differences among diverse communities across the state.

In this economy local elected officials should be given the discretion to make funding decisions based on the needs of their community's workforce.

For the above reasons, the Urban Counties Caucus urges you to **VETO** SB 734. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jolena L. Voorhis".

Jolena L. Voorhis
Executive Director

cc: Senator DeSaulnier
David Lanier, Governor's Office

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