



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
25.		Favor	Andony Corleto	
			Emily Caesar	
			helen M eigenberg	The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a "care first" vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a "care first" approach.
			Lauren M Wolchok	I am a physician and formerly worked at Men's Central Jail with Correctional Health Services from 2016 until 2021. I saw firsthand how incarceration impacted the health and wellbeing of my patients and how so many struggled with recidivism and the cycle of incarceration. AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program offers a real, evidence-based chance at helping people break that cycle and get their footing in the community. It's a win-win for those directly involved and for the community, and I urge the Board of Supervisors to strongly support.
			Leslie Johnson	
			Maria Jose Vides	
			Meredith Gallen	
			Nicole Brown	On behalf of the Urban Peace Institute (UPI), I am writing to support the board's motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento. For almost 20 years, UPI has worked to reduce violence and promote community health in communities across the county, state, and country. While our headquarters are in Echo Park, in supervisorial district 1, we work to support community safety across LA County through training, technical assistance, and advocacy. We support AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program, because both bills work to address the root-causes that lead to involvement in the criminal legal system by connecting people to supportive services. These bills clearly support the Board's vision of a "care first, jails last approach," and will help to strengthen individuals and communities.
Norma Palacios	Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, On behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), I write to request your support on Agenda Item 25 Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs.			

As of: 4/1/2025 9:00:14 PM



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DPA is a proud co-sponsor and supporter of Assembly Bill (AB) 1231, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, which would allow judges to consider offering diversion programs to people charged with low-level felonies that address their underlying needs - substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and poverty.

DPA is the leading organization in the U.S. working to address the harms of drug use and drug criminalization. We advocate for a holistic approach to drugs that prioritizes health, equity, social supports and community wellbeing. Rather than punitive responses to drug use, the state should invest in evidence-based health interventions for people who use drugs, their families, and their communities.

Diversion is far more effective than criminalization and incarceration and provides meaningful opportunities to obtain beneficial services. It is effective because diversion can provide access to programs designed according to individualized needs through case management, outpatient behavioral and healthcare services, substance use disorder treatment, and vocational training. This tool also helps avoid the harmful consequences of criminal records, which make it significantly more difficult to obtain or keep stable employment and housing, and stable relationships with family. In the case of immigrants, pre-plea diversion can help avoid the devastating consequences of deportation and permanent family separation.

Los Angeles County's jail system is the largest in the nation and houses a large number of people with behavioral health needs. Once incarcerated, individuals have little access to evidence-based treatment and their health may be worsened by a jail setting. Exposing people who are struggling with substance use to jail even for short periods of time can be deadly, and disrupt their health and social supports. An investigating report in 2024 revealed that drug overdoses are among the top three causes of death in California Jails and it's estimated that more than 2,700 people have died in jails from 2005 to 2023. AB 1231 would provide a pathway through which people can access substance use services and improve their stability, instead of being trapped in a jail cell without adequate resources.

Specifically, under the bill, after consulting with prosecutors and other key stakeholders, judges may approve a diversion plan crafted in conjunction with defense counsel, a social worker, or other service providers, and the court would review regular reports from the entity managing the program or treatment. Judges are instructed to prioritize people over the age of 55 and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, since they are groups that merit particular consideration. These populations make up all too high a proportion of the jail populations and have low risks of reoffending with appropriate services.

AB 1231 (Elhawary) includes important safeguards, particularly by ensuring that the proposed diversion plan mitigates any unreasonable risk of danger to



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	<p>the community. The pre-plea diversion is limited to lower level, non-violent felony charges including felony vandalism, some financial fraud offenses, unlicensed contractor offenses, and low-level theft and drug charges. AB 1231 targets offenses which are served in county jail, the vast majority of which face sentences for no more than three years. Offering pre-trial diversion programs and services will mitigate social and financial harms for those incarcerated and their families and save taxpayer dollars for criminal and correctional system expenditures.</p> <p>The bill would also ensure accountability by requiring compliance with conditions set by the court and flexibility by authorizing the court to design the plan in accordance with the strength and needs of the person and based on recommendations curated by the individual themselves, a social worker, behavioral health workers, or healthcare professional. This bill keeps communities safe, gets Californians back into the workforce or connected with needed behavioral health services, and lowers costs to the state.</p> <p>We therefore urge you to vote "YES" and support Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the budget request to fund the "Jails to Jobs" employment training and case management pilot program in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Norma Palacios</p>
Olivia Shields	<p>In Support of Board Agenda Item 11: Motion, Entitled, "Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies"</p> <p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>My name is Olivia Shields, and I am the Justice Transformation Policy Coordinator with Urban Peace Institute. I am writing on behalf of UPI to support the board's motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program and directing the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.</p> <p>Urban Peace Institute supports the expansion and fortification of diversion opportunities throughout our work. We have led trainings for diversion providers working with the Department of Youth Development and for the Office of Diversion and Reentry's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. We have also pushed to strengthen diversion in our systems' transformation policy advocacy, highlighting the profound impact that diversion has on public safety as a non-punitive, community-based response to law enforcement contact. UPI recognizes that diversion reduces the likelihood of ongoing system-involvement for both youth and adults by addressing unmet needs and root causes of justice system contact with a care-centered approach.</p>

			<p>Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the "Jails to Jobs" pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.</p> <p>Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to help reduce recidivism when compared to people leaving state prisons. This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.</p> <p>In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .</p> <p>At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, "Jails to Jobs" can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a "care first" vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a "care first" approach.</p> <p>We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote "YES" to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the "Jails to Jobs" pilot's success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at oshields@urbanpeaceinstitute.org.</p>
		Paula G Kahn	See attached.
		Item Total	11
Grand Total			11



March 27, 2025

Via email

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 25, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We write in support of the revised motion by Supervisors Hahn and Horvath, which, if passed, will direct the CEO’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of AB 1231 and the related budget request for the “Jails to Jobs” pilot.

LA County Needs More Opportunities for Diversion

The LA County jails are overcrowded. As the Office of the Inspector General wrote in the most recent quarterly report, “Overcrowding in the Los Angeles County Jails continues to jeopardize the ability of the Sheriff’s Department to provide humane conditions of confinement as required by the Eighth and Fourteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.”¹ The County, Correctional Health Services, and the Los Angeles County Sheriffs’ Department (LASD) remain out of compliance with a multitude of court orders in the County Jails. Litigation costs continue to climb, with the County paying out just under \$100 million in litigation expenses related to suits against LASD in 2024. LA County needs help, and AB 1231 will offer the courts another avenue to divert people out of jail and into programs that have a chance at reducing recidivism and getting people housing and help with mental health needs.

The County is in its tenth year of attempted compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree.² The ACLU of Southern California (ACLU SoCal) serves as class counsel in suits against the County, CHS, and LASD that have been post-judgment or settlement for over ten years (*Johnson*³ and *Rosas*⁴) and over 40 years (*Rutherford v. Luna*⁵). The County will not be able to achieve compliance with the orders in these cases without reducing the population of the LA County Jail. If compliance could be achieved at the present population level, the County would have done it already. There are simply too many people in jail for medical staff to treat, psychiatric staff to evaluate and medicate, deputies to supervise effectively, and to house in areas appropriate for accommodating disabilities, classification levels, and even – when it comes to MCJ – holding people in dorms and cells fit for human habitation.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Liz Cabrera Garcia

CHAIR Carlos Amador **VICE CHAIR** Connie Tcheng

CHAIRS EMERITI Michele Goodwin Marla Stone Shari Leinwand Stephen Rohde Danny Goldberg Allan K. Jonas* Burt Lancaster* Irving Lichtenstein, MD* Jarl Mohn Laurie Ostrow* Stanley K. Sheinbaum*

*deceased

While we believe the County must do more to provide opportunities for diversion under existing law, we wholeheartedly support AB 1231. Allowing courts to divert more people with low-level felony offenses to community-based care aligns with the County's commitment to a "Care First, Jails Last" approach to people who come into contact with the criminal and carceral system.

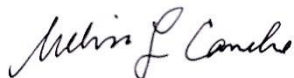
More diversion is also a necessary component of the County's effort to close MCJ. Today, the jails hold 12,794 people. The MCJ closure workgroup determined that the County needed to reduce the jail population to between 8,200 and 8,500 in order to close MCJ. The County needs help, and AB 1231 will provide additional avenues for depopulation and alternatives to incarceration.

Jails to Jobs

We know that our communities require the assistance and expertise of social workers, case managers, and healthcare workers to facilitate and sustain decarceral solutions like diversion. We also know that people involved in the criminal legal system charged with low-level, nonviolent felonies often lack the opportunities and training needed to secure stable employment and rebuild their lives. The "Jails to Jobs" pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help to simultaneously address these challenges by providing an opportunity for system-impacted people to train as the next generation of community health workers.

The "Jails to Jobs" pilot would employ social workers within the Public Defender's Office and case managers and healthcare workers in the Department of Economic Opportunity. These professionals would, in turn, connect people eligible for diversion to comprehensive job training that will enable them to fill vacancies in California's healthcare sectors. This pilot program has the potential to greatly expand the capacity for the provision of vital services in Los Angeles in a moment when our communities are experiencing unprecedented needs. We strongly feel that the innovative "Jails to Jobs" pilot embodies the kind of non-carceral care the County needs to invest in if it truly hopes to fulfill the promises of its commitments to a "Care First, Jails Last" future.

Sincerely,



Melissa L. Camacho
Senior Staff Attorney



Meredith Gallen
Senior Staff Attorney

April 1, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 25: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Maria Jose (MJ) Vides. I am a senior program associate with Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice, which is a national organization working to end mass incarceration, protect immigrants’ rights, and build safe, thriving communities. I am also a resident of District 2. **I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program.**

Vera California has participated in numerous county workgroups to build safety, accountability and justice in Los Angeles, including the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Workgroup, the Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) Closure Workgroup, and the Jail Population Review Council. In those roles, we have seen firsthand the need for Los Angeles County to remain committed to the “care first, jails last” vision as our north star so that we invest in alternatives to incarceration and in ensuring that every Angeleno has the safety they deserve and access to the services they need.

Both AB 1231 (Elhawary) and the Jails to Jobs pilot program offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing our reliance on incarceration, while strengthening the workforce, boosting the local economy, and enhancing community safety.¹ AB 1231 (Elhawary) will give judges new tools to offer people charged with nonviolent, low-level offenses the opportunity for pretrial diversion, which can include job skills training or community-based behavioral healthcare services.² Additionally, as more permanent residents and DACA recipients face deportation for minor felonies as a result of an extreme federal anti-immigrant agenda, judicial diversion offers people a second chance rather than punishing them with removal to potentially life threatening conditions, keeping families and communities together without compromising safety.

In tandem with AB 1231, the “Jails to Jobs” pilot would employ social workers within the Public Defender’s Office and case managers and healthcare workers through the Department of Economic Opportunity to connect people eligible for diversion to comprehensive job training in healthcare and disaster recovery, including construction trades.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system.³ Research shows that diversion programs that incorporate job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral

healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability for individuals and their families.⁴ It is also cost-effective compared to the astronomical cost of jails in Los Angeles.⁵

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in behavioral health and construction trades.⁶ In the wake of the January fires, these trained professionals are exactly who we need to help rebuild Los Angeles— skilled construction workers, debris removal crews, and behavioral health providers for fire survivors. The “Jails to Jobs” program can address this shortage by training participants in specialized fields and ensuring that we have the workforce we need to rebuild our communities and a more resilient Los Angeles. If we fund rebuilding without investing in our own workforce, we will be forced to hire workers from out of town and out of state at a great cost.

For safety, justice, and the prosperity of Los Angeles, we therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion, which will help ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Vera’s experts and researchers would be glad to provide more information or answer questions about AB 1231 or the “Jails to Jobs” legislative budget request—you can contact me at mvides@vera.org.

Sincerely,



Maria Jose (MJ) Vides
Senior Program Associate
Vera California

¹ On the benefits of diversion broadly, see Akhi Johnson and Mustafa Ali-Smith, “Diversion Programs, Explained,” Vera Institute of Justice, April 28, 2022, <https://www.vera.org/diversion-programs-explained>.

² California State Assembly, “AB-1231 Criminal procedure: felony diversion,” 2025-2026 session, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1231.

³ Leah Wang and Wanda Bertram, “New data on formerly incarcerated people’s employment reveal labor market injustices.” Prison Policy Initiative, February 8, 2022, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/02/08/employment>; and Erica Bryant, “The United States Criminalizes People Who Need Health Care and Housing,” Vera, October 17, 2023, <https://www.vera.org/news/the-united-states-criminalizes-people-who-need-health-care-and-housing>.

⁴ Tianyin Yu, “Employment and Recidivism: Continued Evidence-Based Education,” EBP Society, January 30, 2018, <https://www.ebpsociety.org/blog/education/297-employment-recidivism>; and Aaron Yelowitz and Christopher Bollinger, *Prison-To-Work The Benefits of Intensive Job-Search Assistance for Former Inmates* (New York: Manhattan Institute, 2015), <https://manhattan.institute/article/new-report-enhanced-job-placement-programs-reduce-recidivism-rates-among-non-violent-offenders>. **Further, highly promising data out of California shows that the recidivism rate is substantially higher for people leaving state prison (41.9 percent) than for people who participate instead in diversion programs and services (15.3 percent).** See California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), *Recidivism Report for Individuals Released From The California Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation in Fiscal Year 2018-19* (Sacramento, CA: CDCR, 2024), 7, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2024/02/Statewide-Recidivism-Report-for-Individuals-Released-in-Fiscal-Year-2018-19.pdf>; and State Of California Board Of State And Community Corrections (BSCC), *Proposition 47 Cohort II Statewide Evaluation* (Sacramento, CA: BSCC, 2024), <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Attachment-D-2-Proposition-47-Cohort-2-Final-Evaluation-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

⁵ Vera Institute of Justice, *Care First: Ending Mass Incarceration in L.A.* (New York: Vera, 2021), <https://vera-advocacy-and-partnerships.s3.amazonaws.com/ca/Care%20First%20LA.pdf>.

⁶ Jaelyn Cosgrove, “To address homelessness crisis, L.A. County needs mental health workers, fast,” Los Angeles Times, Oct. 28, 2023, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-10-28/la-county-mental-health-jobs-hiring>. Shannon Sedgwick, Juan Madrigal, Eric Hayes, et al. *The Construction Industry in the Los Angeles Basin: An Industry with Growing “Middle-Skill” Workforce Shortages* (California: Center For A Competitive Workforce, 2020), https://ccw.losangelesrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CCW-Construction_Full_Report_FINAL2.pdf.



April 1, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Item 25: Motion Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Leslie Johnson, and I am the Chief Culture Officer at Community Coalition, which co-convenes the Promoting Unity Safety and Health in Los Angeles (PUSH LA) coalition. PUSH LA has worked diligently with members of the Los Angeles City Council for years to reimagine public safety for the people of Los Angeles.

I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care, while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic

stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers.

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades, ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

I, therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at leslie@cocosouthla.org.

Sincerely,

Leslie Cooper Johnson
Chief Culture Officer
Community Coalition



April 1, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Item 25: Motion Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Urban Peace Institute (UPI), I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

For almost 20 years, UPI has worked to reduce violence and promote community health in communities across the county, state, and country. While our headquarters are in Echo Park, in supervisorial district 1, we work to support community safety across LA County through training, technical assistance, and advocacy. We support AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, because both bills work to address the root-causes that lead to involvement in the criminal legal system by connecting people to supportive services. These bills clearly support the Board’s vision of a “care first, jails last approach,” and will help to strengthen individuals and communities.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help](#)



[reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. Furthermore, federal funding cuts could greatly impact grant programs that support community safety and health. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers.

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities.

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

The Urban Peace Institute therefore urges the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at nbrown@urbanpeaceinstitute.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Brown".

Nicole Brown

Director of Policy and Research
Urban Peace Institute



March 31st, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Mitchell

Supervisor Solis

Supervisor Horvath

Supervisor Hahn

Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Item 25: Motion Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Paula Kahn, I am a resident of Supervisorial District 3. I am Education Developer and a service provider at Community Health Project Los Angeles. I am writing to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

This motion is important to myself and the organization I work at because we serve people who use drugs and provide essential health services to them, regardless of their citizenship status. At CHPLA we also have an Empowerment Work Program through which some of our participants sometimes work their way to a full time position at our organization. In my previous role, I worked at an immigrant rights organization and some people I supported in immigrant detention centers were incarcerated there because of a past DUI or because of non-violent drug related offenses. Drug use and or possession should be responded to through human rights-based and public health approaches rooted in compassion and scientific evidence. Chaotic drug and alcohol use is often correlated to unaddressed trauma and unmet socioeconomic needs. Historical trauma, such as colonization, enslavement, Native American boarding schools, forced religious conversion and other forms of violence have been underlying factors driving alcoholism and drug dependency. For this same reason, L.A. County must take initiative to prevent more people from being harmed from mass incarceration and detention. People deserve the opportunity to heal and to sustain themselves as they heal.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. Interim housing shelters are in dire need of more staff to attend to the holistic needs of residents. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

Myself and CHPLA therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at paula@chpla.org.

Sincerely,
Paula Kahn
Education Developer
Community Health Project Los Angeles



March 31, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Agenda Item 25: Motion, Entitled, “Supporting Assembly Bill 1231 to Offer Diversion Programs and Services for Low-Level Non-Violent Felonies”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Emily Caesar, I am a resident of Supervisorial District 1 and a proud member of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California. I am writing on behalf of Bend the Arc to support the board’s motion supporting Assembly Bill 1231 (Elhawary) and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program, and directing the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to advocate in support of both through the legislative process in Sacramento.

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action is the only national Jewish organization focused exclusively on progressive social change in the U.S. We have a significant base of leaders throughout California, with thousands of members in Los Angeles County. Bend the Arc organizes Jews of all identities to work in partnership with our allies to build an inclusive, multi-racial democracy that lives up to our values of justice and equity for all. Our leaders - clergy and laypeople alike - pursue economic and racial justice as an expression of Jewish values. We have been working to transform the criminal legal system in California for over ten years.

Too often, poverty, unstable employment, and unmet health needs push our most vulnerable community members into contact with the criminal legal system. We need policies that invest in people and pathways to stability, not solely punishment and incarceration. AB 1231 will give judges the option to divert people charged with low-level offenses to community-based care

while the “Jails to Jobs” pilot program will resource these local services that build people up, producing better outcomes than incarceration.

Research shows that diversion programs with job training, employment opportunities, and behavioral healthcare reduce rearrests, strengthen community safety, and improve economic stability. In California, participating in diversion programs and services has been shown to [help reduce recidivism](#) when [compared to people leaving state prisons](#). This is especially true for people engaging in job training services.

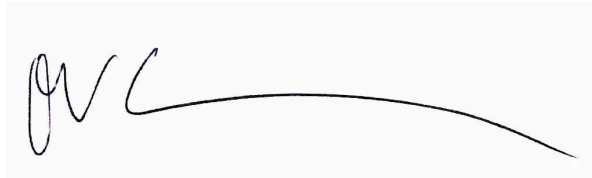
In Los Angeles, service providers are facing critical workforce shortages. The “Jails to Jobs” pilot, paired with AB 1231, can help address this challenge by training the next generation of community health workers .

At the same time, Los Angeles is facing an urgent need for skilled workers in the wake of the January fires, “Jails to Jobs” can also connect participants to specialized training in areas such as fire recovery navigation and construction trades ensuring that we have the workforce to rebuild our communities

The Board of Supervisors has made important commitments to stopping the revolving door of incarceration by prioritizing a “care first” vision for community safety. AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot offer Los Angeles the opportunity to continue reducing incarceration, strengthen the workforce and local economy, and improve community safety through a “care first” approach.

We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to vote “YES” to support this motion and direct county resources to ensure AB 1231 and the “Jails to Jobs” pilot’s success through the legislative process in Sacramento. Should you have any questions please reach out at ecaesar@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EC', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Emily Caesar, MSW, MPH
Lay Leader, Chapter Steering Committee
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California