



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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Director, Governmental Affairs

March 6, 2017

Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 689 (Oberholte), as introduced – Support/Sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support and sponsor AB 689, which revises the way that competency hearings are conducted in juvenile delinquency proceedings. AB 689 is the result of a long stakeholder process that brought judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and other stakeholders to the table. Statewide best practices, subject matter experts, recent state Supreme Court cases, stakeholder goals, and your committee's priorities were all considered in reaching the good compromise measure before you.

AB 689 will create consistency statewide in conducting competency hearings in delinquency cases, while still allowing counties to pursue diversion programs that have been effective with their local populations. The bill will clarify procedures, firmly identify the burden of proof, and require courts to provide services to minors in an attempt to help restore and maintain competency.

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For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 689, thanks you for your interest in this issue and your work on this proposal over the last year, and looks forward to continuing to work with you and your committee as AB 689 moves through the legislative process.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alan Herzfeld at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Mailed on March 6, 2017

Cory T. Jasperson
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ANH/yc-s

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Hon. Jay Obernolte, Member of the Assembly
Mr. David Billingsley, Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Mr. Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Mr. Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California