



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

925 L Street, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
p: 916.443.1749 | f: 916.443.3202
cwda.org

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Umberg:

**RE: SB 1054 (OCHOA BOGH) AS AMENDED
MARCH 31, 2022 — CO-SPONSOR**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is proud to be a CO-SPONSOR of SB 1054 by Senator Ochoa Bogh. This bill allows multidisciplinary teams (MDT's) from Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS) to share relevant information across programs during investigations into abuse and neglect.

Many counties have established MDT's, or have ongoing meetings that are multidisciplinary in scope, both for APS and CWS investigations. Governed by state law, MDT's bring together the expertise of multiple individuals from different fields, all of whom are trained in the identification and treatment of abuse and neglect, including but not limited to: psychiatrists/psychologists, county mental health and social workers, law enforcement and educators.

Currently, MDT's are not explicitly allowed to share information between APS and CWS, even when households may be identified by both programs and where sharing of information would be valuable to enhance services and protect those at risk of abuse and neglect. For example, a current foster youth may come to the attention of APS as a dependent adult as they transition from the foster care system. Understanding the history of services received as a minor could improve services and supports provided to the individual as an adult. In other cases, there are ongoing parallel APS and CWS investigations within the same household containing dependent adults, seniors and youth where information sharing between APS and CWS can better align services and supports to meet family needs.

SB 1054 clarifies existing law by explicitly allowing APS staff and CWS staff to disclose information with each other for the specified and limited purposes of prevention, intervention, management or treatment of abuse or neglect of minors, dependent adults and those over the age of 65. This measure creates a streamlined process for the purposes of information sharing that will improve efficiency and better ensure a well-informed response to reports of abuse or neglect.

For these reasons, CWDA is proud to be a CO-SPONSOR of SB 1054, along with the County of Riverside, and respectfully urges your "aye" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Senderling-McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald | Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Robert Smith, California Department of Social Services
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties
Jim Walmer, County of Riverside
County Caucus