

Assembly California Legislature

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March 6, 2012

The Honorable David Lampe
Director of Alliance of California Judges

Dear Judge David Lampe:

This letter is to invite your organization to attend a meaningful working group, made up of various interested parties, to discuss the terms of Assembly Bill 1208. The meeting is scheduled to take place on March 15, 2012, in my office, Room 319, at 1:30 p.m. Schedule permitting, it is my hope that you can attend. Your presence would clearly make a difference in the outcome of the meeting.

Hundreds of Judges represented by the Alliance of California Judges support this legislation. The majority vote in a survey of judges by the California Judges Association supported an earlier more expansive version of the bill than the one that passed. Hundreds of other judges, who are not necessarily members of the Alliance, contacted their Legislators in support of the legislation. These facts alone demonstrate that there are significant issues with the structure of trial court funding that need to be addressed.

During the debate on the Assembly floor, not one Legislator denied that serious issues exist. While a resolution among judges alone may have been an option earlier in the process, there are now too many stakeholders directly affected by the legislation that must be included. Many Legislators and the press have suggested that the Legislature must be part of the solution.

Everyone's hope is that a sensible and effective resolution can be achieved. I have also extended an invitation to others whose participation, or whose staff participation, is crucial. Those persons include Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, or her chosen delegation, President pro Tem Darrel Steinberg, Speaker John Perez, and representatives of SEIU. Please let me know of any other participants that you feel may advance the discussion so that I may include them.

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A primary purpose of the meeting is to examine the impact of the actual terms of AB 1208. Toward that end, I encourage you to ask appropriate policy and financial personnel to attend so that any specific problems raised by the current terms of the bill may be addressed.

Please accept this is a sincere effort on my part to accommodate a resolution. I look forward to your participation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles M. Calderon
Assembly Majority Leader