June 11, 2018

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Trailer Bill Language Eliminating Sunset Provision in AB 438 (Williams, 2011) –

OPPOSE

Dear Chair Mitchell, Chair Ting, and Members of the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I regretfully write to you today in respectful OPPOSITION to the inclusion of trailer bill language in SB 840 (Mitchell) that would remove the January 1, 2019 sunset date of the contract restrictions on local library services established by AB 438 (Williams, 2011).

As you know, AB 438 (Williams, 2011) placed restrictions on cities’ abilities to enter into an agreement with a private contractor for library management services. These onerous restrictions resulted in a de facto ban on contracting for city library system management. Removing the January 1, 2019 sunset date on these restrictions will permanently enshrine this affront to local control in California law. Cities need as much flexibility as possible to be able to meet local demands and provide city services for our residents. Prohibiting localities from contracting out for library management services unnecessarily limits the options at our disposal to provide our residents with services they need. Allowing these restrictions to continue beyond the original sunset date sets a dangerous precedent that threatens the principles of local control and subsidiarity.

The precedent set by the de facto ban on contracting for library management services has already resulted in subsequent proposed legislation that would further limit local control and unnecessarily burden local governments. AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) aims to build upon the foundation laid by AB 438 (Williams, 2011), seeking to effectively strip cities and counties of their ability to contract for services. Removing the sunset date on the existing library services
contracting restrictions will send us further down this slippery slope by more permanently eroding local control.

The City of Beverly Hills respectfully requests that language removing the sunset date for the library services contracting provisions of AB 438 (Williams, 2011) be excluded from SB 840 (Mitchell) or any other budget trailer bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate and Assembly Budget Committees
The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor, California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore of the Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.