



June 15, 2017

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The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 372 (Stone, M) – Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP)
As Amended April 3, 2017 – Co-Sponsor
Set to be heard June 27, 2017 – Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Skinner:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes as a co-sponsor and in support of Assembly Bill 372, by Assembly Member Mark Stone. This measure, as amended, would require domestic violence batterer intervention programs (BIP) to use evidence-based and promising practices to address the criminogenic needs of offenders convicted of domestic violence.

In the early 1990s California established a mandatory 52 week domestic violence batterer intervention program for persons placed on probation for domestic violence battery. Under state law, probation chiefs are responsible for assessing offender needs and certifying and monitoring domestic violence batterer treatment programs. For the most part, the controlling statutes for batterer intervention programs have not been updated since 1994.

In 2012, the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) released a report that found domestic violence offenders generally have a high rate of recidivism. Further, studies using direct victim interviews over a period of time estimate repeat violence in the range of 40 to 80 percent of cases. The report also looked at the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs and stated, "...domestic violence is a complicated community problem and we have yet to figure out what works for effectively intervening with batterers to reduce recidivism. Research to date has indicated that the most common court-mandated batterer intervention programs do not reduce recidivism or alter batterers' attitudes about violence."

AB 372 updates the goal of a batterer intervention program to stop domestic violence through effective programming that utilizes evidence-based or promising practices that address the criminogenic needs of batterers. In addition, the bill requires the BIPs provide a comprehensive written curriculum that informs the operations of the program and outlines the treatment and intervention modalities including a requirement to provide cognitive behavioral treatments and interventions that reduce a client's resistance to change unwanted behaviors and habits.

AB 372 takes critical steps in transitioning batterer intervention programs into effective treatment programs that address the criminogenic needs of batterers and results in reducing recidivism.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 372 and respectfully requests your **AYE** vote. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to me at dkernan@counties.org or 916.650.8131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darby Kernan".

Darby Kernan
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly
Members and Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus