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LUIS A. ALEJO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

February 28, 2011

Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Chair, Conference Committee on Budget
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Funding of the California Court Case Management System

Dear Chair:

On February 15, 2011, State Auditor Elaine Howle released the results of her audit of the California Court Case Management System (CCMS) to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Based on her conclusions, I cannot in good conscience support the full implementation of CCMS. I recommend cutting off all future funding to the program with two exceptions: 1) Funding for the independent cost-benefit analysis requested by the Bureau of State Audits; and 2) Funding necessary to work out glitches among the seven courts currently using interim systems. Finally, the Conference Committee on Budget should impose restrictions to prevent the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) from shifting funds from other sources to CCMS.

At issue are the following:

Program costs are out of control. Initial estimates had put the cost of CCMS at \$206 million, but as of June 2010, the program has already spent \$407 million and is projected to cost \$2.5 billion to finish developing and training court employees and justice partners how to use the system. Moreover, because of failures by the AOC to properly structure its contract with the vendor, the contract now costs \$310 million, nearly 10 times the initial estimate.

CCMS funding jeopardizes the normal operation of the courts. The AOC has repeatedly cut into the operating budget of the courts to find money for CCMS. In October 2009, under the recommendation of the AOC, Judicial Council reallocated \$72 million from the Trial Court Trust Fund to CCMS. Three months later, the courts chose to continue monthly furlough days with the express purpose of closing a \$90 million budget gap. Furthermore, Judicial Council made a second allocation, this time of \$106 million, as recently as December 2010. The cost of creating CCMS has devastated the courts' ability to provide necessary services to the community and the AOC must not be allowed to continue diverting money to CCMS except when they were originally designated for that purpose.

As a member of both Budget Subcommittee #5 on Public Safety and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, which share oversight of CCMS, I do not have confidence in the system and believe that

continuing to support it would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. Fully seven years after beginning development, only three courts will have CCMS in operation within the next three months. The AOC has shown an inability to manage the project from the start, and its continued funding is detrimental to the courts. For these reasons, I ask you to cut further funding to CCMS.

Sincerely,

LUIS A. ALEJO
Assembly Member
28th Assembly District

cc: Sen. Leno, Sen. Lowenthal, Sen. Negrete McLeod, Sen. Emmerson, Sen. Huff, Asm. Fuentes, Asm. Skinner, Asm. Nielsen, Asm. Harkey, Asm. Lara, Asm. Lowenthal, Asm. Cedillo, Joe Stephenshaw.