



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

February 19, 2009

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SBX2 11 (Steinberg) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

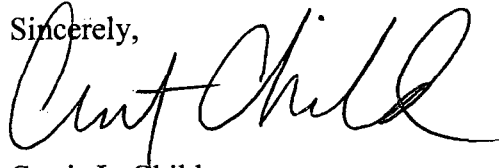
I am writing to urge you to sign SBX2 11 (Steinberg) which will preserve supplemental local judicial benefits for those judges that have been receiving them. This bill is a narrow measure to correct a constitutional defect with these benefits identified by the Court of Appeal in *Sturgeon v. County of Los Angeles*, 167 Cal. App.4th 630. The court in *Sturgeon* held that language included in the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 did not validly delegate the authority of the Legislature to prescribe the compensation for a judge to the counties, rendering the existing Los Angeles County supplemental judicial benefits program unconstitutional. SBX2 11 will provide valid authority for the continued provision of these benefits in Los Angeles County, as well as any other county in which local supplemental benefits are being offered, and establish disciplinary immunity for the judges who received the benefits in the past.

Enactment of this legislation is critically needed to preserve existing supplemental benefits that judges have been relying upon and receiving in good faith for many years. SBX2 11 will not create any additional benefits for judges, nor any additional obligation for the state or the general

fund. It simply authorizes the continued provision of these supplemental benefits as they were provided on July 1, 2008. Counties that provide these benefits will be able to discontinue them as long as they comply with the constitutional requirement that the compensation of a judge not be reduced during his or her term of office. Maintenance of the status quo with regard to these supplemental benefits is critical to preserving the morale of the judicial officers who serve in these courts.

For these reasons we respectfully request your signature on SBX2 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis L. Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" being more prominent and the last name "Child" following in a similar style.

Curtis L. Child
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

CLC/DSH/lb

cc: Hon. Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tempore