



## Judicial Council of California

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May 5, 2025

Hon. Anna M. Caballero, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 2200  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Subject: Senate Bill 59 (Wiener), as amended April 24, 2025—Oppose, unless amended**  
**Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee—May 5, 2025**

Dear Senator Caballero:

The Judicial Council regrettably must oppose Senate Bill 59, which extends the confidentiality provisions that already apply to specified petitions by minors for a change of gender and sex identifier, to adults and makes those confidentiality provisions retroactive, unless it is amended to remove the requirement that courts automatically and retroactively make prior petitions confidential.

Specifically, the Judicial Council is opposed unless SB 59 is amended to strike the newly-proposed 103437(c), which requires the courts to—on their own volition and without any filing from a requestor—find every single past-dated file for name and gender change and make them confidential.

This would place an impossible workload burden on the courts for which no amount of money can conceivably solve. This is because the courts have no effective means of identifying all these old court files to make them confidential. The various court case management systems do not track these particular file types as a category thus every name change petition case would need to be manually reviewed to determine if it falls within this retroactive confidential category.

Amending SB 59 to instead require a petitioner to request that their case records be made confidential would address the concerns underlying the bill in a manner that courts would be able to carry out without having to cumbersomely comb through all their name change case records.

Hon. Anna M. Caballero

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The Judicial Council appreciates the early outreach from the author's office and the bill sponsors to work through concerns, and we look forward to continuing these productive conversations.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes SB 59, unless amended.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Heather Resetarits at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jasperson  
Director  
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/HR/lmm

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Hon. Scott Wiener, Member of the Assembly, 11th District  
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California