



February 12, 2026

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Assemblymember John Harabedian
Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Chair
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Harabedian,

The purpose of this letter is to request the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to authorize an audit of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to ensure that Proposition 47 grant funds are effectively used to achieve the intended goals pursuant to the Proposition as well as subsequent legislation.

Proposition 47, passed by California voters in November 2014, reduced certain non-violent drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, resulting in state savings that are deposited annually into the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund (SNSF). Sixty-five percent of these savings are allocated to the BSCC to administer competitive grants aimed at providing mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and diversion programs for individuals in the criminal justice system.

Additional legislation (AB 1056, Chap. 438, Stats. of 2015) further expanded eligible uses of these funds to include housing-related assistance and other community-based supportive services such as job skills training, case management, and civil legal services.

Given the significant taxpayer investment in Proposition 47 grants, it is imperative to ensure these funds are effectively used to achieve the intended goals of reducing recidivism and filling the gap for mental health and substance abuse. The BSCC requires that at least 50 percent of awarded funds are passed through to community-based service providers, yet there is insufficient publicly available data to assess whether these programs are meeting their objectives. In many cases, community-based service providers self-report recidivism outcomes with minimal oversight, raising concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the reported results and the overall effectiveness of grant funds.

We request that the California State Auditor conduct an audit of BSCC-administered Proposition 47 grants to:

1. Evaluate Recidivism Outcomes: Assess the extent to which Proposition 47-funded programs are effectively reducing recidivism among participants. This will allow policymakers and the BSCC to prioritize community-based organizations that are seeing the best results.
2. Assess Grant Administration and Oversight: Examine whether BSCC has appropriate oversight mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with program requirements, including the mandated pass-through of funds to community-based providers.
3. Measure Program Effectiveness: Determine whether taxpayer funds are being used efficiently and effectively by public agencies and nonprofit organizations to deliver mental health treatment, substance use disorder services, housing assistance, and job training.
4. Inform Future Budgetary Decisions: Provide data to the Legislature on whether Proposition 47 savings should continue to be allocated through BSCC grants or if they could be better utilized to fund mental health treatment under Proposition 36, recently approved by voters.

The Legislature has a duty to ensure accountability for taxpayer dollars and to verify that Proposition 47 savings are being used as effectively as possible. Conducting this audit will provide lawmakers with the necessary data to make informed decisions about the future allocation of these funds and to ensure that the programs supported by Proposition 47 grants are truly benefiting the communities they serve.

We respectfully ask the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to approve this request and direct the California State Auditor to conduct a comprehensive review of BSCC's administration of Proposition 47 grant funds.

Sincerely,



Suzette Valladares
Senator, 23rd District



Michelle Rodriguez
Assembly Member, 53rd District