

**Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers' Union  
AFSCME LOCAL 685**



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November 21, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O St., Ste. 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
1021 O St., Ste. 7610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
Attorney General, State of California  
1300 I St., Ste. 1740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
1021 O St., Ste. 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 6710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Harabedian  
Chair, Joint Legislation Audit Committee  
1021 O St., Ste. 4350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
Assembly Member, District 64  
1021 O St., Ste. 4510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Laura Richardson  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub #5  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable James C. Ramos  
Chair, Assembly Budget #6, Public Safety  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 8310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nick Schultz  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 5150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Capitol Office, Room Ste. 8140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Re: Demand for Independent Audit of Los Angeles County's \$4 Billion Settlement Process**

Dear Governor Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, President pro Tempore Limón, Speaker Rivas, Senator Arreguín, Senator Caballero, Senator Richardson, Senator Weiner, Assembly Member Harabedian, Assembly Member Pacheco, Assembly Member Schultz, and Assembly Member Wicks:

This week, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman announced a criminal investigation into potentially false claims filed against Los Angeles County related to the County's unprecedented \$4 Billion settlement of sexual abuse cases. On behalf of the members of AFSCME Local 685, the union representing Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers, we are writing to demand an immediate and independent audit of the process that led the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to approve a \$4 billion settlement of AB 218 claims.

First and foremost, let us be clear: **we in no way condone, excuse, or minimize the behavior of any County employee who may have harmed youth under their supervision.** Those who engaged in abuse must be held fully accountable, and true victims deserve both justice and compensation.

However, our members – dedicated probation officers who risk their safety daily to rehabilitate and protect youth – have been swept into this massive settlement without due process, without evidentiary hearings, and in many cases without even knowing what allegations have been leveled against them. Some may have been falsely accused, yet they were not given the opportunity to review, challenge, or defend against these claims before the Board committed \$4 billion in taxpayer funds.

### **Our concerns are twofold:**

1. **Breach of fiduciary duty to taxpayers.** The Board appears to have placed political considerations above its duty to safeguard public funds. The County entered into this unprecedented settlement without depositions, without rigorous vetting, and with key elements of review delegated to plaintiff attorneys who stood to profit. This is unacceptable when billions of taxpayer dollars were at stake.
2. **Denial of due process to County employees.** Our members have been denied the basic right to defend their names, reputations, and careers against untested allegations. By approving such a sweeping settlement absent evidentiary hearings, the County has allowed unverified claims to stain the reputations of public servants who have devoted their lives to helping at-risk youth and keeping communities safe.

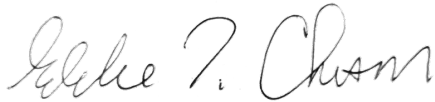
### **For these reasons, we respectfully demand that:**

- The California State Auditor conduct a **forensic audit** of the negotiation, approval, and claim-vetting process behind the \$4 billion settlement.
- **Public evidentiary hearings** be held so all parties – County officials, attorneys, vendors, and affected employees – may provide sworn testimony.
- Procedures be put in place to ensure that future mass settlements of this magnitude require **independent oversight, transparency, and the protection of both victims and innocent employees.**

This is not only about fiscal accountability – it is about fairness, justice, and the integrity of public institutions. Our members deserve the opportunity to clear their names. Taxpayers deserve confidence that their money is being spent wisely and lawfully. And survivors deserve to know that their cases were handled with integrity, not as part of a rushed, politically motivated deal. **By committing \$4 billion without proper scrutiny, the Board has placed an enormous and unsustainable burden on Los Angeles County taxpayers. The consequences will not be abstract: this level of liability will almost certainly force cuts to core public safety functions, rehabilitative programs, and vital safety-net services – precisely the programs our most vulnerable residents rely upon.**

We urge you to take immediate action to restore trust in this process and in our County's leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eddie Chism".

Eddie Chism  
President

cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Nathan J. Hochman, L.A. County District Attorney  
Grant Parks, California State Auditor