



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Levin  
United States House of Representatives  
2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Min  
United States House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa  
United States House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Derek Tran  
United States House of Representatives  
1127 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Young Kim  
United States House of Representatives  
2439 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Linda T. Sanchez  
United States House of Representatives  
2329 Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## **RE: Request for Support for Community Project Funding – County of Orange Overwatch Monitoring System Implementation Project**

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Congressman Correa, Kim, Sanchez, Levin, Min, and Tran:

I write today seeking your support for the County of Orange's community project funding request for the Overwatch Monitoring System Implementation project. Funding would allow Orange County Jails to implement the state-of-the-art Overwatch system. The system is designed to detect potential medical distress early by tracking biometric and wellness indicators in real time.

The health needs of a jail population are incredibly complex. Over the last decade, correctional facilities nationwide have experienced a substantial increase in the number of open mental health cases among our populations. In Orange County, 22% of the average daily jail population had an open mental health case in 2014, by 2023 this has increased to 45%. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is also prevalent among the jail population, which is demonstrated by the fact that on average, over 1,000 inmates in the Orange County Jail receive Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) each day. To meet this challenge we have implanted several reforms, including remolded housing units, increased staffing, enhanced recidivism reduction programs, and a new classification system.

550 N. FLOWER STREET, SANTA ANA, CA 92703 | 714-647-1800

[www.ocsheriff.gov](http://www.ocsheriff.gov)

Integrity without compromise | Service above self | Professionalism in the performance of duty | Vigilance in safeguarding our community

# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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These initiatives have helped us make incredible strides in meeting the needs of those entrusted to our care. Such efforts have been recognized nationally. In 2024 the Orange County Sheriff Jail System was designated as Center of Innovation by the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections for commitment to advance behavioral health initiatives and collaborative efforts to promote recovery, rehabilitation, and continuity of care for inmates upon release.

The Overwatch Monitoring System will be the next step in advancing our custodial work. The primary goal of the program is to improve inmate safety by reducing the time between the onset of medical distress and staff intervention. Early identification and treatment of inmate medical issues translate to the prevention of in-custody deaths and adverse outcomes. In addition to the human impact, the project helps protect taxpayers by reducing liability exposure and associated costs stemming from delayed recognition of medical emergencies. By investing in the Overwatch Monitoring System, we are strengthening our commitment to safer facilities, better outcomes, and keeping our correctional system at the forefront of innovation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,



Don Barnes  
Sheriff-Coroner

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0071  
(916) 319-2071  
FAX (916) 319-2171

DISTRICT OFFICE  
22342 AVENIDA EMPRESA, SUITE 275  
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA 92688  
(949) 459-7170

# Assembly California Legislature



COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR, REVENUE AND TAXATION  
HEALTH  
JUDICIARY  
RULES

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The primary goal is to improve detainee safety by reducing the time between the onset of medical distress and staff intervention. Early identification and treatment of detainee medical issues translates the prevention of in-custody deaths and adverse outcomes. In addition to the human impact, the project helps protect taxpayers by reducing liability exposure and associated costs stemming from delayed recognition of medical emergencies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K" and "S".

Kate Sanchez  
Assemblymember 71<sup>st</sup> District

# California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
SUITE 7130  
(916) 651-4037

DISTRICT OFFICE  
3200 EL CAMINO REAL  
SUITE 230  
IRVINE, CA 92602  
(714) 544-1035

SENATOR  
**STEVEN S. CHOI, PH.D.**  
THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW  
EDUCATION  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON  
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AND ENERGY

February 27, 2026

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**I.**

I look forward to working with you and your staff on this important request. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at (916) 651-4037 or email our staffer assigned to this request at [Meri.Kaftan@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Meri.Kaftan@sen.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Choi".

Senator Steven Choi, Ph.D.  
California's 37<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET  
SUITE 6730  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4036

DISTRICT OFFICE  
301 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 212  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648  
TEL (714) 374-4000

SENATOR.STRICKLAND@SENATE.CA.GOV

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**TONY STRICKLAND**  
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
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TRANSPORTATION  
VICE CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
LOSSAN RAIL CORRIDOR  
RESILIENCY

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Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Strickland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

**Tony Strickland**  
California State Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District



CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET  
SUITE 6610  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4034

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SANTA ANA, CA 92701  
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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
THOMAS J. UMBERG

THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



## STANDING COMMITTEES

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If any additional information is needed, please reach out to Ana Gonzalez with my office at Ana.Gonzalez@sen.ca.gov or (714) 558-3785.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Umberg', written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Umberg  
California State Senate, District 34