

Subject **Special District Grant Accessibility Act Senate Companion Measure Introduced**
From Kyle Packham, Chief Advocacy & External Affairs Officer
<kylep@cdda.net>
To <smoreno@gcrd.org>
Reply-To <kylep@cdda.net>
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Thank you for joining our growing coalition



California Coalition Cosponsor Request Letter Issued to U.S. Senators Padilla and Butler

Following the successful House passage of H.R. 7525 in May, U.S. Senators Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX) have introduced companion *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (SDGAA) legislation in the Senate as S. 4673. The legislation would establish a first-ever, formal definition of "special district" in federal law and ensure communities served by these local agencies are eligible for all appropriate forms of federal financial assistance.

CSDA would like to thank you for signing-on to our California coalition letters!

- In April, 208 local governments, businesses, non-profits and other stakeholders signed our [coalition letter to the California Congressional Delegation](#) and helped secure 14 cosponsors to H.R. 7525, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives.
- CSDA has issued an [updated coalition letter to California's U.S. Senators](#), Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler, respectfully requesting they cosponsor the Senate companion measure of the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, S. 4673. We are pleased to have included 234 signatories to our growing coalition!

CSDA is a proud founding member of the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) and the SDGAA embodies NSDC's longstanding legislative objective of codifying in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of "special district."

In addition to codifying this definition, the legislation would require the White House Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations.

One of the leading factors driving the need for the SDGAA is the fact that special districts were omitted in COVID-19-era legislation that provided direct federal financial assistance to local governments for coronavirus relief and response activities (namely CARES Act funding and ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars). Unlike other forms of local government, special districts were excluded from receiving direct federal aid, despite the fact that many special districts provided essential public services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including ambulance/EMS, hospital, and open space services.

Compounding the problem, while special districts are eligible for most current federal funding opportunities, they have faced unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to accessing certain grant programs due largely to the lack of clarity absent a formal definition. The SDGAA seeks to level the playing field by ensuring that special districts and the communities they serve have access to all appropriate and relevant federal funding streams.

The bill's first stop in the Senate is expected to be the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. If approved by the committee, the legislation would then advance to the Senate Floor.

Once again, thank you for signing-on to CSDA's coalition letters in support of the Special District Grant Accessibility Act. Visit [csda.net/GrantAccessibility](https://www.csdanet.org/GrantAccessibility) to learn more.



California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento CA, 95814
877.924.2732 | www.csdanet.org

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