

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Coalition of L.A. Probation Unions Responds to State Takeover of County Probation Department with Cautious Optimism**

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – In response to this morning’s announcement by the California Attorney General [placing the Los Angeles County Probation Department under receivership](#), the Coalition of L.A. Probation Unions issued the following statement:

“We are cautiously optimistic that the Attorney General’s action will finally bring the accountability that Los Angeles County desperately needs,” said Stacy Ford, President of the Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685. “For years, the Board of Supervisors has ignored our warnings and failed to invest in the sworn officers who serve on the front lines. The result has been a manufactured crisis – one that the County itself has perpetuated through chronic hiring freezes, hostile working conditions, and the outsourcing of public safety responsibilities to untrained civilians.”

The Coalition, which includes the Deputy Probation Officers Union ([AFSCME Local 685](#)), the Supervising Deputy Probation Officers Union ([Bargaining Unit 702, SEIU Local 721](#)), and the Probation Managers represented by the Professional Managers Association ([AFSCME Local 1967](#)), emphasized that any state-led reform must begin by stabilizing the workforce and restoring core probation services.

“The failure to support probation has left our supervisors without the staff, resources, or legal structure to lead effectively,” said Reggie Torres, President of the Supervising Deputy Probation Officers Union, SEIU Local 721. “Mandatory deployments, extended shifts, and back-to-back holdovers have exhausted our team, jeopardized community supervision, and made it nearly impossible to keep up with court-ordered duties. We hope the Attorney General’s office takes immediate steps to relieve these pressures and bring structure back to the department.”

The Coalition has repeatedly raised concerns about the County’s strategic pivot toward privatization and its effort, through Senate Bill 357 (Menjivar) to transfer core juvenile justice functions to the newly created Department of Youth Development (DYD), a department with no meaningful track record, few trained professionals, and a reliance on private staffing firms like Apple One. In recent weeks, one DYD-contracted employee was detained for attempting to bring a concealed weapon into a juvenile facility. Another (contracted to the Probation Department) was arrested for trying to smuggle narcotics into the same location.

“This receivership could be the reset we need, but it must be grounded in collaboration, not just oversight,” said Katheryn Beigh, President of the Professional Managers Association, AFSCME Local 1967. “Our managers have the institutional knowledge and operational expertise to help lead a responsible path forward. Ignoring our voices, or the voices of our sworn officers and supervisors, would only deepen the damage.”

The Coalition’s new website – [www.ProbationSavesLives.com](http://www.ProbationSavesLives.com) – outlines the history of hiring freezes, the breakdown of supervision systems, and the policy decisions that led to the current crisis. It also highlights the urgent need to reverse course on SB 357, a bill pushed by the County that seeks to permanently shift juvenile facility leadership away from trained professionals in Probation.

“We welcome the opportunity to be part of a true reform process,” said the Coalition in a joint statement. “But that reform must be honest, fact-based, and focused on restoring, not replacing, the public safety mission of probation. The stakes are too high for politics. The people of Los Angeles deserve a functioning system that protects youth, supports victims, and empowers the workforce.”

The Coalition of L.A. Probation Unions Stands Together for Five Core Priorities:

### **1. Protect Union Rights and Bargaining Power**

- We call on AG Rob Bonta and any court-appointed monitor to publicly commit to protecting collective bargaining rights. Receivership must not become an excuse to bypass or weaken union agreements.

### **2. Make Safety the Top Priority**

Everyone – staff, clients, and the community – deserves a safe environment. That requires:

- ✓ Better equipment and protective gear
- ✓ Fully staffed posts
- ✓ Consistent safety protocols
- ✓ And an end to policies that put workers in harm’s way

### **3. Support the Workers Who Show Up**

- The members of our three unions have continued to serve with dedication despite broken systems, poor leadership, and a lack of resources. The monitor must work to improve conditions on the ground, not just reassign blame.

### **4. Invest in Respect, Training, and Conditions**

Workers must be treated with dignity. That means:

- ✓ Respect from leadership
- ✓ Improved training and professional development
- ✓ Real investment in working conditions and tools to do the job well

## **5. Include Us in the Process**

- We call on the AG and the monitor to formally include labor representatives in every step of this process. Workers and our unions must have a seat at the table — not just for input, but for decision-making power.

“The receivership is our opportunity to reshape a broken system, but that won’t happen by sidelining the people who know the work best,” continued the Coalition. “We must center safety, fairness, and worker voice as this transition unfolds. We urge Attorney General Bonta and the appointed monitor to stand with workers, not over them.”

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