



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Jim Cooper
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6025
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1326 (Cooper) Crimes: supervised release. – SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Dear Assemblyman Calderon,

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its support for Assembly Bill 1326 (Cooper). AB 1326 would expand enhanced petty theft penalties to a person who has a prior conviction for any serious or violent felony, and to any person who has three or more prior convictions for similarly listed crimes. ACC-OC was founded in 2011 as the hub for good public policy representing the interests of Orange County cities, and is committed to supporting county-wide partners and regional public safety leaders through the advocacy of important legislation like AB 1326.

The recent passage of Proposition 57 by California voters absolutely necessitates legislation such as AB 1408. After the passage of Proposition 47, four of Orange County's largest cities saw a significant increase in violent crime. Law enforcement officials spoke out strongly in opposition to Prop 57 when it was on the ballot, and now that it has passed their opposition has only grown. Within the last few months a veteran Whittier police officer was shot and killed by a recent parolee during a routine traffic stop, a crime that officers blamed on legislation such as Propositions 47 and 57. In order to protect not only our communities but our local law enforcement officials, legislation to better monitor the release of violent criminals back on to the streets must be enacted. AB 1326 represents an important step in the right direction.

Existing law establishes the penalty for petty theft as a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. Statute also outlines, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, enacted as an initiative statute by Proposition 47, as approved by the electors at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election, provides that a registered sex offender or a person with a prior conviction for certain serious or violent felonies, such as a sexually violent offense, who commits petty theft, is subject to imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year or in the state prison for 16 months, or two or three years.

This bill would expand those enhanced petty theft penalties to a person who has a prior conviction for any serious or violent felony, and to any person who has three or more prior convictions for crimes such as petty theft, grand theft, and burglary. The bill would also authorize the court, when it is in the interests of justice, to order a person convicted of a



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

felony violation under those provisions to complete a licensed drug rehabilitation program in lieu of part of any term of imprisonment. The bill would provide that as a condition of that sentence, the court may require the offender to pay all or a portion of the drug rehabilitation program. Ultimately, AB 1326 will help ensure that offenders do not re-enter our communities unsafely.

The safety of California's cities is of paramount importance, and should always be addressed as swiftly and decisively as possible. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County is proud to support AB 1326. Should you have any questions about our position or about ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Stratman
Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County