



Los Angeles County
**Professional
Peace Officers
Association**

188 E. ARROW HIGHWAY

SAN DIMAS, CA 91773

[323] 261.3010

INFO@PPOA.COM

WWW.PPOA.COM

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 97 (Rodriquez): Firearms: unserialized firearms
As amended on March 8, 2023 – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write to communicate support for AB 97 by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriquez, which would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to report data on arrests and prosecutions of specified misdemeanor offenses related to unserialized firearms. Specifically, the required information would have to include data on whether charges were dismissed, whether the defendant was acquitted or convicted, or whether the charges were resolved on other grounds, including as a result of plea bargaining.

An October 2022 report from the Public Policy Institute of California on crime trends in the state found that gun-related homicides and aggravated assaults, compared to pre-pandemic levels, surged by 52% and 64%, respectively. The report also found that violent crime rates increased in most of the state's 15 largest counties in 2021.

AB 97 would take an important step to gain a comprehensive understanding of ghost guns and how criminals are being prosecuted.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 97.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriquez, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



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The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 695 (Pacheco): Juvenile Detention Facilities Improvement Grant Program
As Amended on May 18, 2023 – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write to communicate support for AB 695 by Assemblymember Pacheco, which would create the Juvenile Detention Facilities Improvement Grant Program to provide grants to a county of the first class to address the critical infrastructure needs of the state's detained and supervised youth in the county.

To achieve real juvenile justice reform, specifically care-first, trauma informed therapeutic model, the Los Angeles County Probation Department needs substantial infrastructure and capital improvement funding from the State. The Department's juvenile detention facilities are badly outdated and in need of critical renovations with almost all its physical plants in significant dilapidation. Critical infrastructure funding is also required for the new Secure Youth Treatment Facility minors whose care model needs modern facilities, not old, dilapidated facilities.

SB 695 would provide critical funding, with substantial oversight and measurable outcomes, to provide the necessary resource to support juvenile justice reform. Specifically, outcomes would include:

- Raze and build a new Central Juvenile Hall with facilities that work for the programming and counseling required for a trauma-informed, care-first model.
- Substantial Renovation and Infrastructure to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Ha;; and the Dorothy Kirby Center to meet the State-law required "homelike" environment.
- Construct a modern Training Facility to enhance the critical training needed to engage in real trauma-informed, care-first programming and counseling.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 695.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

Cc: The Honorable Blanca Pacheco, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



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June 8, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 958 (Santiago & Bonta): Prisons: visitation
As amended on May 18, 2023 – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write in opposition to AB 958 by Assemblymembers Santiago and Bonta which would make the right to personal visits by an intimate partner or a family member a civil right for incarcerated persons in a California state prison or county jail, with some narrowly tailored exceptions related to the furtherance of a compelling security interest of the government.

California's correction facilities need flexibility to accommodate and implement visitation processes which are influenced by numerous factors, including facility design, infrastructure, staffing, and the behavior of inmates and visitors. With decades of U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence to guide implementation of visitation policies, AB 958 is unnecessary.

Moreover, while well intentioned, the exceptions to visitation rights in AB 958 will lead to costly, time-consuming, and disruptive litigation when a visitation is denied in the name of security interests of the government.

For these reasons, PPOA must oppose AB 958.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

cc: The Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mia Bonta, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1034 (Wilson): Law enforcement: facial recognition and other
biometric surveillance
As amended on May 1, 2023 – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write in opposition to AB 1034 by Assemblymember Lori Wilson, which would, until January 1, 2027 prohibit a law enforcement officer or agency from using facial recognition technology (FRT) in connection with a law enforcement agency's body-worn camera or data collected from an officer camera.

Peace officers' use of FRT is an important tool in the investigatory toolbox. This technology does not by itself result in ultimate identification, but it may generate investigative leads necessary for combatting crime in communities. While appropriate oversight and accountability for the use of FRT is appropriate, AB 1034 would eliminate the tool entirely.

For these reasons, PPOA must oppose AB 1034.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

cc: The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus





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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 55 (Umberg): Vehicles: catalytic converters
As amended on April 10, 2023 – Notice of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write in support of SB 55, by Senator Tom Umberg, which would require a car dealer to sell a vehicle with a permanently marked catalytic converter with vehicle's identification number unless the vehicle is sold for dismantling or salvage, the vehicle is sold at a wholesale auction or a buyer declines the marking offered by the dealer. This bill would also add additional traceable payment methods for core recyclers when purchasing catalytic converters.

Auto parts theft continues to plague California. In particular, catalytic converters have become the primary target in these types of crimes. Data shows a 1,215% increase in national catalytic converter thefts since 2019, with California ranking first in the country for total number of these reported thefts. In Los Angeles County, the Sheriff's Department reported a 400% increase in catalytic converter thefts from 2019 to 2020.

PPOA supports legislative efforts to curb the rise in auto parts related crimes. For these reasons, we support SB 55.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

cc: The Honorable Tom Umberg, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus





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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 58 (Wiener): Controlled substances: decriminalization of certain
hallucinogenic substances
As amended on March 1, 2023 – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write to communicate opposition to SB 58 by Senator Scott Wiener which would make lawful the possession, preparation, obtaining, transfer, as specified, or transportation of, specified quantities of psilocybin, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, and mescaline, for personal use or facilitated or supported use by and with persons 21 years of age or older.

Our overarching concern with SB 58 is the concept of further decriminalizing controlled substances which will have serious deleterious impacts for individuals, families, and society at-large. This bill will further exacerbate drug addiction issues in California and drain the state's limited and already inadequate resources to treat substance abuse disorders and help rehabilitate individuals with drug abuse problems into healthy and productive members of their communities. PPOA believes that treatment programs for substance abuse should be the policy priority for the State of California.

SB 58 eliminates effective legal deterrents to drug use. The penalties in existing law are often reason for individuals to seek treatment for their substance abuse disorder. Without these legal ramifications, our concern is that drug abuse proliferates.

For these reasons, we are opposed to SB 58.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

Cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus





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June 8, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 377 (Skinner): Firearms
As Amended on May 18, 2023 – NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write in opposition to your SB 377 which would make changes to the law enforcement exemption to the 10-day waiting period requirement for the purchase of a firearm. SB 377 would also make changes to the prohibition against the purchase, sale and transfer of unsafe handguns, would require law enforcement agencies to maintain records regarding the purchase and transfer of unsafe handguns, and authorize the Department of Justice (DOJ) to inspect these entities for compliance.

Specifically, PPOA is opposed to SB 377 as it would prohibit sworn peace officers from purchasing off-roster firearms. California's peace officers are required to take and successfully pass rigorous firearms training and testing. Additionally, as members of the very communities they are sworn to protect and who put their lives on the line daily, peace officers legally owning off-roster firearms do not pose a threat to public safety.

For these reasons, PPOA must oppose SB 377.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

Cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 400 (Wahab): Peace officers: confidentiality of records
As amended on April 12, 2023 – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), I write in opposition to SB 400 by Senator Aisha Wahab, which would provide that law enforcement agencies that formerly employed a peace officer or correctional officer are not prohibited from disclosing the termination for cause of that officer. Specifically, SB 400 would allow the disclosure of an officer's termination for cause, and limit that information to the name and rank of the officer, the date of termination, and a general description of the cause for termination.

SB 400 would allow an agency to disclose confidential, personal information on peace officers and custodial officers before they are afforded their full due process under the law. In many instances, officers are exonerated and return to work. By allowing the release of confidential information to be shared prior to the final determination in an officer's case, SB 400 could end up damaging public trust in the peace officers that continue to serve in their local communities.

Moreover, the State of California has made numerous changes to the California Public Records Act and peace officer and custodial personnel records in the name of accountability and transparency. SB 400 would supersede these laws recently passed by the Legislature.

For these reasons, PPOA must oppose SB 400.

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobedo
President

Cc: The Honorable Aisha Wahab, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

