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March 20, 2017

The Honorable Patricia Bates
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4048
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 75 (Bates) Violent felonies. – SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Dear Senator Bates,

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its support for Senate Bill 75 (Bates), as amended on March 16, 2017. SB 75 would expand the California Penal Code definition of “violent felonies” to include additional crimes that are very serious and violent in nature. ACC-OC advocates for 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 SB 75.

Since the passage of Proposition 57, four of Orange County’s largest cities saw a significant increase in violent crime. The expansion of the definition of “violent felonies” to include crimes already deemed serious or dangerous by the legislature is a step in the right direction. Existing law classifies certain felonies as “violent felonies” and imposes an additional one-year term for a felony, and a 3-year term for a violent felony for each prior, separate prison term. As an example, the passage of SB 75 would ensure that a person previously convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, would have the correctly classified, penalty of an added 3-year term to their existing sentence.

Additionally, SB 75 would provide local law enforcement with the resources they need from the state to protect our communities, by correctly classifying terms of penalties. This measure will define the following felonies as violent felonies, including: vehicular manslaughter, human trafficking involving a minor, battery with personal infliction of serious bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, rape where victim is legally incapable of giving consent, rape of an unconscious person, and other egregiously violent crimes. SB 75 helps to address the consequence of Proposition 57 by revising the ability for a convicted individual to be considered for early parole after committing multiple, and separate violent felonies.

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 SB 75. 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

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