



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz, Chair  
Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol

**Re: Assembly 63 (Rodriguez) Loitering: Prostitution - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Schultz:

The California Peace Officers' Association supports Assembly Bill 63 (Rodriguez), a measure that reinstates key provisions to address loitering with intent to commit prostitution, previously repealed in 2023 under Penal Code 653.20, while adding thoughtful safeguards to ensure fair enforcement. This bill restores a vital tool for combating human trafficking and supporting victims, striking a careful balance between public safety and equity.

Until January 1, 2023, California law classified loitering in public with intent to commit prostitution as a misdemeanor, empowering law enforcement to intervene in situations often tied to exploitation. The repeal of this law stripped officers of an essential mechanism to tackle human trafficking—a crime they are uniquely positioned to address due to their frequent encounters with both victims and perpetrators. AB 63 wisely brings back these provisions, enabling officers to identify trafficking indicators, offer assistance, and link victims to resources that prevent further harm.

Recognizing past concerns that led to the repeal, this bill includes smart protections. It explicitly bars arrests based solely on an individual's gender identity or sexual orientation, ensuring enforcement targets behavior, not identity. Additionally, it mandates that officers document efforts to provide services to the individual before making an arrest, promoting a compassionate approach that prioritizes support over punishment where appropriate.

The loss of PC 653.20 in 2023 left a gap in law enforcement's ability to disrupt trafficking networks and protect vulnerable people. AB 63 fills that gap responsibly, equipping law enforcement to act decisively while addressing equity concerns head-on.

CPOA urges you to support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Cervenka'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Neil Cervenka, President  
California Peace Officers' Association



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz, Chair  
Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol

**Re: Assembly Bill 284 (Alanis) Racial Identity and Profiling Advisory Board- SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Schultz:

The California Peace Officers' Association supports Assembly Bill 284 (Alanis), a well-crafted bill that fine-tunes the data collection process for peace officer stops and improves the makeup of the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board (RIPA). This legislation thoughtfully balances the need for law enforcement transparency with the practical challenges officers face daily.

Under existing law, state and local agencies must submit annual reports to the Attorney General detailing all "stops," defined as detentions or search-related interactions by peace officers. While this system seeks to ensure accountability, it sweeps in too many encounters that don't fit its primary goal of monitoring profiling. AB 284 smartly adjusts this by excluding certain situations—like responses to service calls or detentions to prevent serious injury or death—from the definition of "stop." These exclusions acknowledge that not every officer action stems from discretion or raises profiling concerns, lightening the reporting load on agencies without undermining the law's intent.

The bill also enhances RIPA by sharpening its membership for greater effectiveness. Currently, RIPA comprises representatives from human rights and community groups, clergy, and extra members appointed by the Governor, Senate President pro Tempore, and Assembly Speaker. AB 284 streamlines this by adding the president of the California District Attorneys Association (or their designee) and an active peace officer from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training not already on the board. It trims the human rights, community, and clergy representatives to one each and removes the discretionary appointees. This recalibration brings in hands-on law enforcement and prosecutorial expertise while keeping a range of viewpoints, positioning RIPA to better address racial and identity profiling with practical solutions.

AB 284 is a sensible, forward-looking proposal. It refocuses data collection on interactions that matter most, reducing administrative strain on officers, and equips RIPA to offer sharper, more relevant insights.

CPOA urges support for AB 284.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Cervenka', written in a cursive style.

Chief Neil Cervenka, President  
California Peace Officers' Association



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin, Chair  
Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol

**Re: Senate Bill 277 (Weber Pierson) Consent Searches-Oppose**

Dear Senator Arreguin:

The California Peace Officers' Association opposes Senate Bill 277 (Weber Pierson), a proposal that places excessive restrictions on peace officers' ability to request consensual searches.

This bill would limit such requests to situations where an officer is actively investigating a crime and has reasonable suspicion that the individual possesses evidence of criminal activity. It further mandates a rigid sequence of steps—informing the individual that consent is voluntary, detailing the search's scope, and documenting the consent—while barring officers from exceeding the explained scope and requiring them to stop if consent is withdrawn. These changes undermine a proven law enforcement tool and impose unnecessary burdens on officers working to keep our communities safe.

Under current law, peace officers can conduct warrantless searches with voluntary consent, a practice grounded in individual choice and balanced by clear legal standards. Search warrants, by contrast, are reserved for cases where evidence of a felony is at stake, among other criteria. California law already prohibits officers from using factors like race, ethnicity, gender, or religion to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause, unless tied to a credible suspect description, and forbids arbitrary searches. Officers must justify any stop with a valid, articulable reason, ensuring that consent requests remain reasonable and lawful.

Consensual searches are invaluable because they rely on the individual's discretion—surprisingly, even those with something to hide often agree to a search, defying logic but aiding investigations. This flexibility allows officers to resolve suspicions efficiently without escalating to formal warrants. Senate Bill 277, however, ties officers' hands with prerequisites and procedural hoops

that could delay critical action or let evidence slip away, especially if a suspect revokes consent at a pivotal moment.

Moreover, modern accountability measures—body-worn cameras, bystander cell phone footage, and mandatory reporting of demographic data for all encounters—already provide robust oversight. These tools ensure transparency and guard against misuse, making the additional restrictions in this bill redundant and overly restrictive.

Senate Bill 277 risks weakening public safety without meaningfully enhancing protections already in place. CPOA urges you to oppose this legislation and preserve the current framework, which balances individual rights with effective law enforcement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Cervenka', written in a cursive style.

Chief Neil Cervenka, President  
California Peace Officers' Association



April 4, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin, Chair  
Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol

**Re: Senate Bill 758 (Umberg) Juries: Preemptory Challenges-SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Arreguin:

The California Peace Officers' Association supports Senate Bill 758 (Umberg), a thoughtful measure that adjusts the rules for preemptory challenges in jury selection to promote fairer trials, especially in cases where law enforcement officers are defendants or alleged victims. This bill enhances both fairness and functionality in our courtrooms.

Current law allows parties to use preemptory challenges to remove prospective jurors without explanation, but bans these exclusions when rooted in discriminatory assumptions about characteristics like race, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. It also unfortunately flags certain reasons—such as a juror's distrust of law enforcement, belief in racial profiling, or connections to people involved in the criminal justice system—as presumptively invalid unless proven otherwise. While designed to curb bias, this presumption can backfire in trials involving law enforcement, where a juror's views on police could genuinely impact their impartiality.

SB 758 fixes this by lifting the presumption of invalidity for those specific reasons in cases where an officer is a defendant or alleged victim. When an officer's conduct or credibility is at the heart of a case, a juror's past negative experiences or skepticism toward law enforcement becomes a valid concern for ensuring an unbiased jury. By removing the extra hurdle to justify these challenges, the bill empowers attorneys to assemble juries capable of delivering fair and accurate outcomes without compromising anti-discrimination safeguards.

This legislation finds a practical middle ground. It preserves protections against unfair jury selection while adapting to the realities of law enforcement-related cases.

CPOA urges support for SB 758.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Cervenka', written in a cursive style.

Chief Neil Cervenka, President  
California Peace Officers' Association