

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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March 12, 2015

The Honorable Kathleen Galgiani
Senator, 5th District
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 448: SPONSOR AND SUPPORT

Dear Senator Galgiani:

On behalf of California Statewide Law Enforcement Association and our 7,000 public safety professionals, we are pleased to sponsor and support your SB 448 which would authorize many of our peace officer members to record conversations with the public in a manner similar to the vast majority of other peace officer groups, including our special agents at the Department of Justice, city police and deputy sheriffs.

Under existing law, recording a conversation without express permission of the party being recorded is generally considered wire-tapping and prohibited. Existing law, however, provides an exception for the vast majority of peace officers throughout California. The peace officers who would gain this authority from SB 448 face many of the same situations seen by those currently with this authority. In our view, the public should have no expectation of privacy when interacting with a peace officer, especially since most peace officers are now permitted to record such conversations.

Recent events have demonstrated the value of such recordings in resolving issues that would otherwise degenerate to a struggle between two parties with different recalls of the interaction. In addition, modern technology has made such recordings much more common place when recorded by third parties. In conclusion, this measure promotes additional transparency for interactions between the public and California's peace officers.

Thank you for carrying this important measure. If there is any way in which we may be of further assistance, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Alan Wayne Barcelona
Special Agent, DOJ
President, CSLEA

CC: The Honorable Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Joel Anderson, Vice-Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
Ms. Alison Anderson, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee
Mr. Eric Csizmar, Senate Republican Caucus