

# CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION



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Association of Criminalists-DOJ

Association of Conservationist  
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Association of California  
Wildlife Officers

Association of Deputy  
Commissioners

Association of Motor Carrier  
Specialists

Association of Motor Vehicle  
Investigators of California

Association of Special Agents-  
DOJ

California Alcohol Beverage  
Control Agents

California Association of  
Criminal Investigators

California Association of Food  
& Drug Investigators

California Association of Fraud  
Investigators

California Association of Law  
Enforcement Employees

California Association of  
Regulatory Investigators &  
Inspectors

CHP Public Safety Dispatchers  
Association

California Organization of  
Licensing

Fire Marshal Emergency  
Services Association

Hospital Police Association of  
California

State Park Peace Officers  
Association of California

6/17/25

The Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: Opposition to SB 627 – “No Secret Police Act”

Dear Senator Wiener:

I’m writing to express strong opposition to SB 627 (Wiener), the “No Secret Police Act.” While I understand and respect the intent behind the bill, it fundamentally misses the mark. It undermines officer safety, ignores operational realities, and risks further eroding the stability of a profession that’s already under tremendous strain.

### Officers Are Public Servants — Not Political Targets

Law enforcement officers do this job for one reason: to protect the public. They step into volatile, emotional, and often violent situations not for glory, and certainly not for politics — but because they believe in serving their communities. And in an age where a single moment, out of context, can be broadcast globally within seconds, stripping them of basic anonymity in sensitive or high-stress settings doesn’t build trust — it puts a target on their backs.

SB 627 forces officers to make split-second decisions in already dangerous situations while worrying about whether their face will be plastered online, whether their families will be threatened, or whether they’ll be vilified for simply doing their job. They didn’t ask to be thrust into the center of a political vortex — but this bill makes them the object of it.

Police departments across California are still reeling from the instability of the reform era. Vacancy rates are at an all-time high, and recruitment remains an uphill battle. Bills like SB 627 only exacerbate that. Who would willingly step into a job that offers little protection, immense scrutiny, and now, even fewer basic safeguards?

### Undermines Officer Safety and Mission Effectiveness

This bill bans face coverings in nearly all contexts — even those necessary for basic operational safety. It disregards everyday scenarios where anonymity is not just helpful but essential: undercover assignments, organized crime surveillance, narcotics investigations, and even some patrol or crowd control work. Removing that shield places officers and their families at unnecessary risk.

### Focuses on Optics Instead of Outcomes

SB 627 is a solution in search of a problem. It’s a reaction to federal actions and a desire for symbolism — not a thoughtful reform based on community needs or operational experience. If the goal is transparency and trust, let’s have that conversation. Not performative policies that will only drive more officers away from the job.

For these reasons, we are opposed to SB 627. Let’s focus on policies that strengthen public safety, support recruitment and retention, and restore trust through meaningful, workable solutions — not political theater.

Sincerely,

Alan Wayne Barcelona  
Special Agent, DOJ  
President, CSLEA