

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION



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2/23/26

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

Association of Criminalists-DOJ

RE: Opposition to SB 1004 – Law Enforcement: Masks

Association of Conservationist
Employees

Dear Senator Wiener:

Association of California
Wildlife Officers

I'm writing to express strong opposition to SB 1004. 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.

Association of Deputy
Commissioners

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. 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.

Association of Motor Carrier
Specialists

Association of Motor Vehicle
Investigators of California

SB 1004 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. Not to mention, this bill unjustly holds California peace officers liable for enforcing this law and does not limit the scope of liability attached to California peace officers - a request of Governor Newsom in his signing message of the previous iteration of this bill.

Association of Special Agents-
DOJ

California Alcohol Beverage
Control Agents

California Association of
Criminal Investigators

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 1004 only exacerbate this problem. Who would willingly step into a job that offers little protection, immense scrutiny, and now even fewer basic safeguards?

California Association of Food
& Drug Investigators

California Association of Fraud
Investigators

This bill bans face coverings in nearly all contexts - even those necessary for basic operational safety. Nearly identical to SB 627, it does not include the expanded exemptions Governor Newsom requested in follow-up legislation. 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.

California Association of Law
Enforcement Employees

California Association of
Regulatory Investigators &
Inspectors

SB 1004 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 enact performative policies that will only drive more officers away from the job.

CHP Public Safety Dispatchers
Association

For these reasons, we are opposed to SB 1004. Let's focus on policies that strengthen public safety, support recruitment and retention, and restore trust through meaningful, workable solutions - not political theater.

California Organization of
Licensing

Sincerely,

Fire Marshal Emergency
Services Association

Hospital Police Association of
California

Alan Wayne Barcelona
Special Agent, DOJ
President, CSLEA

State Park Peace Officers
Association of California