



County of Monterey

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April 14, 2025

The Honorable Michelle Rodriguez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 63 (Rodriguez) Loitering with intent to commit prostitution – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, we support AB 63. Existing law, until January 1, 2023, prohibited loitering in a public place with the intent to commit prostitution and made that crime a misdemeanor. This bill would reinstate those provisions and would prohibit California law enforcement from making an arrest pursuant to these provisions solely based on the individual's gender identity, sexual preference, or orientation. The bill would also require law enforcement, prior to making an arrest to document their attempts to offer the individual services. By creating a new crime, and by imposing new duties on local law enforcement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

In 2022, Governor Newsom signed SB 357 into law, repealing penal code sections that made it a misdemeanor to loiter for the purpose of prostitution. SB 357 aimed at protecting people from profiling, harassment, and discrimination based on appearances. Although the intention was positive, the result of SB 357 is that it has made a challenging problem more difficult by removing tools that could assist law enforcement in making community streets and neighborhoods safer. AB 63 reinstates the law that made it a misdemeanor to loiter in a public place with the intent to commit prostitution, but imposes additional requirements such as law enforcement must document attempts to offer services to individuals before making an arrest and prohibits them from making an arrest based solely on an individual's gender identity, sexual preference or orientation. AB 63 strikes the necessary balance that would allow law enforcement to ensure resident safety while protecting innocent people from being discriminated against based on appearance. This bill would encourage law enforcement and community workers to work with commercial sex workers to provide resources, services, and educational materials, while also addressing the ongoing disruption and safety issues caused by loitering. Prostitution continues to burden communities in the County of Monterey, and we need increased vigilance, public education, and partnerships to resolve human trafficking in all forms. AB 63 will allow for more tools for local law enforcement to address the ongoing problems in our communities. For these reasons, we support AB 63.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
Members and Consultants, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee

