

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1747 (Gonzalez) Law enforcement: immigration. - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your bill, AB 1747, which would protect the privacy of personal information collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of issuing driver's licenses

In 2015, undocumented California residents could start obtaining driver's licenses legally under a program created through Assembly Bill 60 by Assemblymember Luis Alejo, who now sits on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. This law assures that all motorists, regardless of citizenship status, are expected to be trained, tested and insured while on California roads. Residents were told the AB 60 driver's license program would include safeguards to prevent abuse of the system prompted by federal immigration policies. But recent news investigations have uncovered that I.C.E. can access state-run law enforcement databases that contain personal information about participants in the AB 60 driver's license program.

Assembly Bill 1747 will protect the privacy of California residents by ensuring I.C.E. agents do not have access to personal information, such as dates of birth, addresses or photos, contained in these state-run law enforcement databases. News reports cite individuals are afraid of facing immigration enforcement in relation for having a license, and the number of applicants for AB 60 driver's licenses has sharply dropped in recent years. AB 1747 will prohibit California law enforcement agencies from making personal information contained in their databases (including those maintained by private vendors) available for the purpose of immigration enforcement, except for an individual's citizenship or immigration status which is required by federal law to be shared. AB 1747 would not apply to information on individuals with active arrest warrants.

We are pleased to support AB 1747 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisors, Jennifer Capitolo or Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
California State Association of Counties

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