



City of
SANTA CLARITA

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July 20, 2021

Bill Miranda
Mayor

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate, District 18
State Capitol Building, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Laurene Weste
Mayor Pro Tem

SUBJECT: SB 262 (HERTZBERG): OPPOSE

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

Jason Gibbs
Councilmember

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to Senate Bill 262, related to waiving the monetary bail for all misdemeanors and specific felonies. The Santa Clarita City Council voted unanimously to oppose this measure at the regular meeting on July 13, 2021.

Marsha McLean
Councilmember

Cameron Smyth
Councilmember

Existing state law allows judges to use their discretion and consider the facts and evidence of each case in setting, reducing, or denying bail. This allows for judges to take into consideration unique factors in each case, including the protection of the public, the safety of the victim, the seriousness of the offense charged, the previous criminal record of the defendant, and the probability of the defendant appearing at the trial or hearing of the case.

However, Senate Bill 262 preempts discretionary authority of judges and creates a blanket policy, irrelevant of the potential severity of the case and risk of safety of the victim and general public.

Furthermore, California voters approved a voter referendum, only months ago, that repealed similar legislation that would have replaced monetary bail for a non-monetary pretrial risk assessment. In light of the recent voter referendum, Senate Bill 262 seems to be an attempt to undermine and overturn the will of the voters.



Honorable Robert Hertzberg

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For these reasons, the City of Santa Clarita respectfully opposes Senate Bill 262. We look forward to working with your office to address our concerns.

Should you or your staff require any further information regarding our position on this bill, please feel free to contact Intergovernmental Relations Analyst Masis Hagobian at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,



William A. Miranda

Mayor

BM:MH:sk

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cc: Members of the City Council
Senator Scott Wilk
Senator Henry Stern
Assemblywoman Suzette Valladares
Assembly Member Tom Lackey
Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager
Leadership Team
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Analyst
Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities
California Contract Cities Association
Joe A. Gonsalves & Son