



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 21, 2015

Assembly member Jones-Sawyer
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0059
Fax: (916) 319-2159

RE: AB 256 Electronic Evidence

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention program based in Oakland, I write to express support for Assembly Bill 256.

Increasingly, video recorded by the public has been useful in providing details in contentious situations. AB 256 ensures that the law will not be misinterpreted by specifically clarifying that “any physical matter” includes digital images and video recordings.

In 2000, AB 1993 (Romero) became law, making it a felony for peace officers to knowingly alter, place, or move physical matter with the intent of wrongfully charging another person for a crime. But it is necessary for this law to be updated to keep up with technological advancements.

Throughout California there have been several instances of police misconduct documented by civilians on their personal mobile devices. In many instances, peace officers have temporarily confiscated person’s mobile devices as possible evidence, only to return the devices with digital images and/or videos deleted or destroyed AB 256 would amend the penal code to specify that “any physical matter’ includes digital images and recordings and would prevent important evidence from being destroyed.

Assembly Bill 256 provides added protection to evidence captured by the public and provides an opportunity monitor instances of police misconduct. We support Assembly Bill 256: Electronic Evidence.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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