



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

March 31, 2016

Senator Loni Hancock, Chair  
Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1286 (Leno) — Support**

Dear Senator Loni Hancock:

Youth ALIVE! is pleased to support SB 1286, authored by Senator Mark Leno. SB 1286 will improve accountability and trust in law enforcement by providing public access to information about serious uses of force and proven misconduct by peace officers.

California law currently makes peace officer misconduct and discipline confidential. This means law enforcement agencies cannot tell the public whether an officer engages in misconduct, discipline is imposed on officers who violate a laws, department policies or community norms, nor meaningfully inform the public about officer-involved shootings or other serious uses of force.

More specifically, California is among the most restrictive states in the U.S. on public access to information about peace officer misconduct and investigations into critical police community incidents. Texas, Florida, Kentucky, Utah, and nearly a dozen other states, provide public access to such information when misconduct is confirmed. In addition, at least 10 other make records related to complaints against officers publicly available regardless of whether misconduct is found to have occurred.

SB 1286 will resolve the deficit in California law by allowing the public access information about serious uses of force and misconduct by peace officers. It would also allow people who file complaints about officer misconduct to find out what happened in response, permit cities and counties to hold public hearings and appeals on allegations of misconduct, and allow governmental bodies to review officer personnel files while keeping them confidential.1 Addressing police secrecy is critical to improving the lack of community trust in our system of justice, especially in communities of color, where people are killed by police at alarming rates.

As an example, a recent Pew Research Center poll found that only 30 percent of Americans, and just 10 percent of African Americans, believe law enforcement agencies are doing a good or excellent job of holding officers accountable for misconduct.2 Another poll shows that nearly 80 percent of Californians believe the

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

1 To account for any privacy or safety interests, SB 1286 permits nondisclosure whenever either is shown to outweigh the taxpaying public's significant interest in government transparency.

2 Pew Research Center: Few Say Police Forces Nationally Do Well in Treating Races Equally.  
<http://www.peoplepress.org/2014/08/25/fewsaypoliceforcesnationallydowellintreatingracesequally/>.

YOUTH ALIV  
3300 Elm Stre  
Oakland, CA 946  
Tel: (510) 594-25  
Fax: (510) 594-06  
[mail@youthalive.c](mailto:mail@youthalive.c)  
[www.youthalive.c](http://www.youthalive.c)

**HONORAF  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOS  
Former Mayor of Los Angel

DIANNE FEINSTE  
United States Senat

EDWARD JAMES OLMC  
Act

AL JARRE  
Singer/Musici

**BOARD OF DIRECTOF**

PHILLIP S. CHAN  
Princip  
Redondo Surgic  
Los Angeles, C

ALISA DEWY  
Consulte  
Resources Global Profession  
San Francisco, C

DAVID E. DURAN  
General Coun  
Blackhawk Netw  
Pleasanton, C

ANGELA JENKIN  
Direct  
N. Cal Community Benefit Fund  
Prograr  
Kaiser Permaner  
Oakland, C

MICHAEL NIET  
Deputy District Attorn  
Alameda Cour  
District Attorney's Offi  
Oakland, C

ELIZABETH SEKEF  
Clinic Direct  
Lyon-Martin Health Servic  
San Francisco, C

SIARA SPRIGG  
Residential Counsel  
The Refuge, Ir  
Oakland, C

LA'BAN WADE  
Stude  
UC Berkel

STAN WEISNE  
Director Behavioral ai  
Biological Scienc  
UC Berkeley Extensio  
Berkeley, C

GREGORY VICTORIN  
Chief, Division of Traur  
Alameda Health Syste  
Oakland, C

ANNE C. MARK  
Executive Direct  
Youth ALIV  
Oakland, C