



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Assembly member Rob Bonta
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1118- Procedural Justice -- SUPPORT

Dear Assembly member Bonta,

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1118, Police Officer Standards and Training: Procedural Justice. Youth ALIVE! is an Oakland-based violence prevention and youth leadership organization.

Throughout California, police-community relations are strained by longstanding tensions—particularly in communities of color—due to a deeply rooted historical mistrust of law enforcement. Racial profiling, excessive use of force and implicit bias contribute to the widespread suspicion and mistrust of law enforcement. AB 1118 builds the public’s confidence in law enforcement by establishing a Procedural Justice Task Force, administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections, to implement enhanced procedural justice training for local law enforcement agencies.

Procedural justice and police legitimacy training is a critical step as part of a broader effort toward organizational change, intended to improve the relationship between police and communities they serve. The training is based on four key principles:

- Treating people with dignity and respect;
- Making decisions fairly, based on facts, and not illegitimate factors such as race;
- Giving people a voice, a chance to tell their side of the story; and,
- Acting in a way that encourages community members to believe that they will be treated with goodwill in the future.

According to research, law enforcement departments that employ these principles see a higher level of public cooperation and increased compliance with the law. Oakland, Stockton and Salinas have successfully implemented procedural justice and police legitimacy training tailored to reflect community priorities and departmental needs, and a growing number of law enforcement departments across the state have expressed interest in adopting procedural justice training.

This bill would establish a Joint Taskforce to manage grant funding, monitor implementation of procedural justice training, and support a community of

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practice plan to assist local law enforcement departments that have adopted procedural justice training. The Taskforce will be comprised of 12 members and include statewide representation from community stakeholders, civil rights organizations, and law enforcement who together will be responsible for supporting and monitoring implementation of procedural justice training.

AB 1118 would also establish minimum standards for grant funding, based on best practices in procedural justice training. Grant eligibility criteria includes authentic partnerships with community based organizations—including funding for community partners—to support training and develop local law enforcement policies; incorporation of implicit bias training and modules that address historical and generational effects of policing, particularly in communities of color; performance reviews to test competency in procedural justice, including peer evaluations and community surveys; and the development of tools to assess course quality and whether the training is changing officer's attitudes and practices.

Lastly, the bill would require Peace Officer Standards and Training to work with the Taskforce to establish a model procedural justice training curriculum that could be established statewide.

We are pleased to offer our strong support of AB 1118.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director