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Tuesday, April 23, 2019

**Submitted Electronically**

Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
California State Capitol  
Room 4015  
Sacramento, CA 94814

**RE: Assembly Bill 242 (Kamlager-Dove) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Kamlager-Dove:

I am writing on behalf of the California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) to express our support for Assembly Bill 242, which will require implicit bias training for officers of the court, including attorneys, judges, and other court personnel every two or three years.

Bias is a part of human nature and therefore affects everyone, even the most well-intentioned people. Implicit bias involves unconscious attitudes or stereotypes and may have a bearing on our understanding, actions, decision, and ability to relate to others. The most common factors involving bias include race, gender, age, ethnicity, social or economic status, disabilities, or weight. Like all people, attorneys and judges are susceptible to bias. For example, research has shown that judges may rely on intuition rather than deliberation, prosecutors are more likely to charge black suspects than white, and even public defenders may work hard for a defendant that appears to be more educated or likely to succeed due to race, gender, or socio-economic status.

By requiring implicit bias training, attorneys and judges will be able to recognize and reduce these disparities in the legal system, thereby preventing

For all of the abovementioned reasons, the CCLA supports AB 46 (Carrillo).

Very truly yours,

Jeremy Hinkson  
President, California Civil Liberties Advocacy

Cc: Assembly Judiciary Committee (Submitted Electronically)

*“Indifference to personal liberty is but the precursor of the state’s hostility to it.”  
— Justice Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court*