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California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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April 15, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate Public Safety Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 618 (Stone): Penalty Enhancement for Officers Falsifying Police Reports-- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner:

California Civil Liberties Advocacy supports SB 618, which will provide a penalty enhancement for Officers who falsify police reports.

Officers require the public's trust to be effective and efficient. When this trust is broken, such as when an officer falsifies a police report, it does irreparable damage to the public's relationship with officers.

Police officers are among our most trusted public servants, and the integrity of their reports used in the prosecution of crimes needs to be entirely above and beyond reproach. As such, law enforcement officials who knowingly and maliciously file false reports in order to settle personal vendettas against the accused should be held to a higher standard, which SB 618 seeks to accomplish.

SB 618 would make it a felony for an officer to knowingly and intentionally falsify a police report or commit perjury. Specifically, it would raise the penalty from imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison for 1, 2, or 3 years, to imprisonment for 2, 3, or 4 years.

SB 618 is an effort to improve public relations between police and their communities by assuring that officers who commit crimes are held to a higher legal standard than civilians. For all these reasons, we respectfully urge your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Joy Hyatt".

Mary Joy Hyatt

Legislative Advocate

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