



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy  
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Saturday, March 5, 2016

Assemblymember Rocky Chávez  
P.O. Box 942849  
Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0076

RE: Assembly Bill 1802

Dear Assemblymember Chávez,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy is writing to **OPPOSE** AB 1802 unless amended to address the following concerns:

It is a well-known fact that many trade associations have established “astroturf” organizations to advance an ulterior motive. For instance, according to the book, *Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis*, by investigative journalist Christian Parenti, groups like the California Correctional Peace Officers Association have established “grassroots” lobbies, such as Crime Victims United, that aggressively lobby for tougher minimum sentences and new criminal statutes. (Parenti, *Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis*, Verso (2005) p. 227.) Thus, the CCLA is concerned about the following language in lines 17 through 20:

“One member who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor and an expert in the rights of crime victims or a representative of a recognized organization that advocates for the rights of crime victims.”

The CCLA strongly encourages the author to amend the bill to define the qualifications of an “expert,” and to delete the language allowing the Governor to appoint a representative from a crime victims organization. The CCLA proposes that the following or similar language be inserted into AB 1802:

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

*“As used in this section, “expert” means someone who is qualified by education, training, and work experience, and who possesses a baccalaureate degree or an advanced degree in social work, human services, social and community behaviors, or criminal justice; and a minimum of two years of experience in social work or victim advocacy.”*

Due to all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA **OPPOSES** AB 1802 unless amended to address these concerns.

Respectfully,



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Cc: Assembly Public Safety Committee