



[CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org](http://CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org)

California Civil Liberties Advocacy  
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Monday, March 7, 2016

Assemblymember Patty López  
P.O. Box 942849  
Room 5160  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

RE: Assembly Bill 1909

Dear Assemblymember López,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) **SUPPORTS** Assembly Bill 1909 (AB 1909) on the grounds that it helps to create a more relatable system of justice for the average citizen.

In 2010, California adjusted the threshold of Grand Theft from \$400 to \$950 (AB-2372). Just as the United States tries to create laws that are consistent across the United States in their measures so that citizens can have better understanding of how to interact with those laws, so too should we keep consistent within the criminal code.

An inconsistent narrative within our legal system about what is so heinous as to be seen as reprehensible creates confusion. That confusion makes the law less approachable, which means fewer and fewer people shall try to learn the law. Within our society, one's lack of knowledge of the law is no excuse. Therein lies the problem.

Within our legal system, we have chosen to aim to rehabilitate the criminals within our society. We have come to understand the role education plays in reducing crime. Creating an ignorance of the law itself undermines this aim. We should, as a policy, aim to reduce such confusions, such growth of ignorance.

Therefore, AB 1909 is the right action. It helps create consistent, memorable guidelines for an average citizen to take in. That average citizen is then in a better place to contribute to our society as well as any other.

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

Due to all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA strongly **SUPPORTS** AB 1909.

Respectfully,

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Cc: Assembly Public Safety Committee