



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy  
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Monday, March 6, 2017

Assemblymember Philip Ting  
State Capitol  
Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

RE: Assembly Bill 412 (Ting)

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) is writing to express its **SUPPORT** for AB 412.

It is the opinion of the CCLA that the legislature and the judicial system should allow for indigent defendants who are unable to pay the entire amount of bail upfront. The CCLA also strongly feels that it is unjust to allow defendants to setup payment plans if they enter a plea of guilty (especially for infractions such as traffic fines), but to plead "not guilty" requires the entire amount to be posted prior to trial. Of course, a defendant may request the court to waive bail at an arraignment, but this is entirely at the judge's discretion (which may vary from one jurisdiction to the next) and requires no means test to determine ability to pay.

AB 412 remedies this inconsistency by establishing a means test similar to the current fee waivers provided for civil actions by the Judicial Council of California.

Due to all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA strongly **SUPPORTS** AB 412.

Respectfully,

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

Cc:

Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, California 95814