



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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Tuesday, June 27, 2017

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

RE: Assembly Bill 748 (Ting)

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) is writing to express its **SUPPORT** for AB 748.

Racism and discrimination are on the rise and just one of the issues that our world is struggling with. As most people know, there have been many recent shootings by police officers where innocent people are being murdered or shot by police. Evidence supports that many of these victims were innocent.

Take for instance the 2013 fatal shooting by Officer Jason Blackwelder of Russell Rios. A simple Google search of shootings by police officers reveals that a small proportion of officers are wearing them. For example, Rios stole goods from a Walmart store and Sgt. Blackwelder responded and chased Rios on foot into a wooded area. The police officer came out of the woods and Rios didn't. Blackwelder said in a statement that Rios tried to choke him and he shot Rios in self-defense. However, evidence collected from the crime scene contradicted that account, including the fact that Rios was shot in the back of the head. Yes, the officer was convicted in this case but, like so many others, this is usually not the case.

The CCLA believes that body cameras can help control police brutality and shootings. The footage should always be made public. We want to know that authorities will keep us safe, not kill them off and lie about it, or stretch the truth. Officer convictions are seldom if ever. Bad cops could be put away and good cops could keep their jobs and not be labeled as bad cops, which will also enhance public trust and confidence. Body cameras would eliminate the

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

emotionally difficult equation of “who do we believe” and make the world a better place for all of us.

Due to all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA strongly **SUPPORTS** AB 748.

Respectfully,

Cindy Andrews
Representative for CCLA
(916) 741-2560

Cc:

Senate Public Safety Committee