



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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Monday, March 6, 2017

Senator Jerry Hill
State Capitol
Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: Senate Bill 21 — Support

Dear Senator Hill,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) is writing to express strong **SUPPORT** for SB 21 and the author's proposed amendments.

The CCLA strongly believes that law enforcement must be able to do their job effectively and have the tools that enable them to be most efficient. At the same time, in their zeal for justice, law enforcement agencies sometimes overlook the potential for unintended consequences that come with such technology and the far-reaching effects they can and do have. We strongly believe that the rights of the citizenry must be balanced with the needs of law enforcement.

At a time when public opinion is becoming increasingly critical of police officers and the tactics employed in crime detection, it is absolutely essential that departments strive for greater transparency and public input when new technologies are employed to aid in criminal investigations. For several years now, the CCLA has openly rejected the false dichotomy that the adoption of new technologies is a total loss for citizen's rights and vice versa. While it may be difficult to balance the two effectively, this does not mean that citizens' legitimate privacy interests must be trumped in favor of emerging technologies—technologies that were likely designed with no consideration for such privacy concerns or Fourth Amendment protections.

By ensuring that law enforcement tools and practices are open to public scrutiny, this will enhance both trust and confidence in the agencies and the officers, thus making SB 21 a win-win for all interested parties, especially the public at large.

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

For all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA strongly **SUPPORTS** SB 21 and the proposed amendments.

Respectfully,



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Cc:

Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol
Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814