



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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To the Office of Senator Lara:

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 31. As shall be repeated by most conscientious parties: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."* - Free Exercise Clause of the United States' Constitution. By extension, neither can the state legislation. Not only that, but the state legislation has a duty to act against any attempted law which tries to thwart this liberty awarded to every civilian within the U.S. or its holdings. SB-31 is a perfect example of the fulfillment of that duty.

On the campaign trail, then President-hopeful D. Trump was asked, "Should there be a database or system that tracks Muslims in this country?" He responded with the statement "There should be a lot of systems. Beyond databases. I mean, we should have a lot of systems." – [1]Politifact. As unclear as he may be perceived, there can be no mistake that he meant a system expressly to track Muslims. The purpose of the lists was expressly aimed to the detriment of those that follow Islam for a perceived threat. This impedes the free exercise of the religion of Islam within our country. It is impeded by giving an imposition that is not afforded to any other religion within our country. Therefore, there is an active threat to the free exercise of Islam within our nation. This must be changed.

Because passing SB -31 means that the Legislature of California is upholding its duty to support the Free Exercise Clause of our Constitution, because laws supporting the Free Exercise Clause of our Constitution improves the civil liberties afforded to our citizenry, and because the CCLA shall always wish to aid those forces which improve the civil liberties afforded to our citizenry, The California Civil Liberties Advocacy offers its full support to SB-31.

Respectfully,

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cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations

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

[1] <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2015/nov/24/donald-trumps-comments-database-american-muslims>