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September 21st, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Veto – Senate Bill 54 (De León)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to urge you to veto SB 54. First, I want to give my thanks and appreciation for your work to incorporate additional amendments. However, I still believe this bill jeopardizes public safety and will limit flexibility of local sheriffs like Yuba County who have existing contractual relationships with ICE. Limiting local law enforcement's ability to communicate and cooperate with federal officials endangers public safety and handcuffs their ability to perform their daily duties. SB 54 still prevents law enforcement from communicating with federal immigration authorities regarding the release of criminals charged with felony and misdemeanor charges.

California residents and local law enforcement should not have to sacrifice their safety to protect individuals who have committed serious crimes like domestic battery, animal cruelty, and drunk driving, among others. The constituents that I represent, including immigrant communities, deserve to live and work in a safe and secure environment. SB 54 outright compromises that right and sets an unlawful precedent regarding law and order in the state of California.

The current version of SB 54 sends a very clear negative message to law enforcement. The bill provides protection for those who have committed serious crimes, such as assaulting a peace officer. SB 54 also hinders law enforcement from properly dealing with known criminal gang members arrested for most misdemeanor crimes. Protecting violent international criminal gangs like MS-13, who victimize our immigrant communities via drug and human trafficking, is actually contradictory to the intent of SB 54, which is to protect immigrant communities.

As a legislative body, we owe it to the people of California to be forthright with proper and truthful information. Deportations have actually *decreased* since the Obama administration, according to new data from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. California residents deserve better than a bill introduced with unsubstantiated rhetoric. Moreover, our law enforcement officers do not currently use resources to enforce immigration law, and the approval

of the Trust Act has already been successful at building a sense of security for our immigrant communities without hindering law enforcement from doing their jobs.

California must take the proper steps to provide security and safety to all residents, while also making sure to support law enforcement by recognizing and observing federal law. SB 54 provides a major barrier for local law enforcement agencies from working with their Federal counterparts. This bill creates division in our state while only providing sanctuary for criminals. Our communities depend on our local law enforcement to protect us.

By signing SB 54, California will effectively force local law enforcement to become adversarial in their relationship with federal officials, instead of cultivating an effective and copacetic relationship.

For these reasons, I urge you to veto SB 54. Please feel free to contact me at (916)-319-2003 should you further want to discuss my concerns with the legislation.

Sincerely,



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblyman, District 3