



californiacivil liberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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Sunday, September 18, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of the State of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2298— Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (“CCLA”) respectfully urges you to sign Assembly Bill 2298.

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) values AB-2298 because it serves three purposes. The first purpose is deterrence. Those who become aware that they are on a list for their activities are more likely to abandon the kinds of activities which got them on the list in the first place. This can lower crime and raise safety.

The second benefit to the public comes from its potential for reformation. When people who earnestly seek reform in their life from previous activities get a message saying that they are no longer on the list which serves as a reminder of their mistakes; they shall feel genuine relief. Perhaps they shall see it as a measure of their reform. If they do not trust the legal system, perhaps that person shall feel free from the government stepping “in the way” of their life and then want to perpetuate that sense of freedom.

Regardless, so long as individuals are on said lists, it could potentially hinder their ability to receive gainful employment. It is a looming threat over their head and a blight on a skillful background check. While on these lists, a stigma shall follow the individual. Misuse of this information may be illegal, but that won’t stop those that it won’t stop. This information has a history of becoming widely available.

Third, these lists are costly and if there is no oversight as to their maintenance they can be a sprawling list of useless information requiring larger and larger banks for storage. Pruning of the data banks could help reduce growing maintenance costs of the hardware and software required for the lists.

Based on the aforementioned reasons, the CCLA strongly urges you to sign AB-2298.

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

Respectfully,

Nicholas Gonzales
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