



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Assemblymember Melissa Melendez
P.O. Box 942849
Room 6031
Sacramento, CA 94249-0067

RE: Assembly Bill 1788

Dear Assemblymember Melendez,

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy **SUPPORTS** Assembly Bill 1788 (AB 1788) because it offers a new layer of protection for the citizenry of California.

The California Constitution rightly affords the California Legislature full immunity from civil action from five days before the session begins until five days after it begins. This affords the legislature the leeway to do what is needed to accomplish its duty. However, it does leave a blind spot for justice.

A "whistle blower" does the People a service by informing the People of injustices performed around themselves. The whistle blower when deciding to come forward must do so after considering the real threat upon their by loss of employment or other measures. Our government has passed laws protecting the whistle blower from this. By barring any entity from retribution against whistle blowers, this takes the strain off of the whistle blower, allowing him or her to decide to come forward on the weight of the injustice alone. This promotes a just society.

The CCLA supports Policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisal. This bill in particular, helps give protection to the individuals that afford the People with the greatest protection. Our current laws leave a loophole where public injustice can do the most harm — to an entire state. Let us close that loop hole.

Due to all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA strongly supports AB 1788.

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

Respectfully,

Nick Gonzales
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Cc: Assembly Public Safety Committee