



CRIME VICTIMS UNITED
OF CALIFORNIA

August 28, 2013

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 3160
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 105 – Corrections

Dear Honorable Budget Committee Chairs:

On behalf of Crime Victims United of California (CVUC), I am pleased to support SB 105 related to corrections. CVUC has always been a strong proponent for public safety – the government's number one priority. We urge you to focus on this priority on behalf of all Californians, passing the Governor's proposed package as contained within SB 105 and allowing for immediate implementation.

It is no secret that CVUC is highly concerned about the release of serious and violent offenders back onto the streets of California. Although we understand the state is under a mandate by the Federal Court, it is important to understand that the order is to reduce **NOT** release. It is critical that you understand the very strong distinction between reduce and release. Crime is already on the rise in California. By the Department of Justice statistics, murder is up 10% in California; property crimes and sexual assaults are also on the rise. If California were to release 10,000 more inmates onto our streets, the rise in crime would be astronomical and the number of victims would be unconscionable.

CVUC is proud to have worked with Governor Brown to help craft this immediate, short-term solution to preserve public safety. This bill provides for immediate solutions that will allow for the meeting of the court mandate while preventing the early release of serious and violent offenders. It is imperative that this short term solution be implemented in order to avoid more serious and violent crimes and more victims.

While we support evidenced-based rehabilitation, drug and mental health treatment programs, the Senate plan to provide performance-based grant programs as an incentive to counties to expand these programs will not protect public safety in and of itself. Counties are already overburdened as a result of realignment. Shifting additional offenders whether immediately or over the next three years will jeopardize public safety. Such rehabilitation must begin prior to release and must focus on those offenders who are amenable to true rehabilitation. We do not have the luxury of choosing one path over the other and it shouldn't be either incarceration or rehabilitation. In an ideal world and with sufficient resources it

should be both, but with a Federal Court order hanging over our heads we must deal with public safety first – and that means ensuring no early releases, as SB 105 seeks to do.

On behalf of all crime victims and in the name of public safety, we are asking you to pass Governor Brown's proposed short term solution. Thereafter, let's work on meaningful rehabilitation efforts. If you have any questions regarding CVUC's position on this measure, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh, Koepke & Associates at (916) 930-1993. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Harriet Salarno
Chair & President



Nina Salarno Ashford
Executive Board Member

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
Members, California State Legislature