



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3 <i>Chairman</i>	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator, State of California
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 1093 (Jackson) – Enhanced DMV Confidentiality Protection for Adult Protective Services Staff – Per Legislative Platform

Dear Senator Jackson:

Riverside County has a position of SUPPORT on your Senate Bill 1093 which adds Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers to the list of staff who can obtain enhanced confidentiality protections from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

In general, current state law makes confidential the home addresses of all individuals contained within DMV records. However, the law allows for disclosure to courts, law enforcement agencies, and other governmental agencies, along with limited disclosure to financial institutions, insurance companies, attorneys, vehicle manufacturers, and persons doing statistical research.

Enhanced protection is available under Vehicle Code Section 1808.4 to 23 classes of persons whose jobs are particularly sensitive which primarily includes law enforcement, along with Child Protective Service (CPS) workers and Community Care Licensing (CCL) staff. These individuals, along with their spouses and children, may request that their home addresses be held confidential by DMV. Under this enhanced confidentiality, the home addresses of these persons may only be disclosed to a court, a law enforcement agency, the State Board of Equalization (BOE); pursuant to a subpoena issued by a court in a civil or criminal case; or a governmental agency legally required to be furnished the information.

As the APS program has been implemented over the past two decades and as our population ages, the level of crime perpetrated against elder and dependent adults has increased and criminals have grown more sophisticated, encompassing financial abuse in addition to physical abuse and neglect. A growing number of county APS staff are reporting being harassed and followed by alleged perpetrators who are angry due to the discovery of their crimes and make the worker the target of their anger.

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
March 21, 2018
Page 2

In Riverside County, for example, law enforcement accompanied an APS social worker to the home of a client to investigate an allegation of adult abuse and arrested the suspected abuser. The suspected abuser is known to law enforcement to have an affiliation with a local gang and has a criminal history. The abuser bailed out of jail and, by all accounts, went straight to the APS office and made staff aware that he was “looking for” the social worker.

APS clients can also be a concern. In one instance, a mentally unstable APS client posted in a blog, and with great detail, the description of the vehicle the APS social worker used when visiting his home. The client was later detained pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5150 for making death threats on another person. The social worker felt the client posed a great risk to her safety.

In Riverside County, the elderly population is expected to grow by 56% over the next 10 years. Unfortunately, we expect crimes against elder and dependent adults to increase as the population grows. Ensuring the safety of our APS staff is critical so they can focus on doing their job: protecting our most vulnerable Californians.

It is time for the protections afforded to CPS and CCL staff and other law enforcement entities to be extended to the estimated 800 APS workers statewide. Ensuring their confidential information remains protected to the greatest extent possible requires only a small change to the law, but represents a huge step forward for the APS field.

For these reasons, Riverside County supports your SB 1093.

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington, Chairman
Riverside County Board of Supervisors

CC: Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association of California
(Sponsor)