



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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LANCE M. LARSON
Director of Legislative Affairs

April 27, 2010

The Honorable George Runner
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1204 (Runner)** – As Amended April 20, 2010– **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Runner:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 1204. As amended, your legislation would require all registered sex offenders to disclose all of their online addresses, including social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, and any other websites that qualify as social networking. SB 1204 is an important measure that would protect our most prized possession, our children.

As you know, social networking sites have become extremely popular among our adolescents. Hiding behind the cloak of anonymity, sexual predators have utilized these sites as a vehicle to lure unsuspecting children. SB 1204 would provide law enforcement the necessary tools to monitor registered sex offenders who visit social networking websites.

With the passage of SB 1204, California would become the second state to enact this type of law. New York became the first when it passed a similar bill known as the Electronic Securing and Targeting of Online Predators Act (e-STOP). On February 2, 2010, Attorney General Cuomo declared that more than 4,336 registered New York sex offenders had been purged from major social network websites since the bill passed.

The exploitation of our children is a deplorable act that threatens the very fabric of our culture. The safety of our children is a high priority for the County of San Bernardino and we believe this bill is an important step in protecting the innocence of our youth and the residents of our community. For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 1204. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, the County's Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors