



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

February 20, 2015

The Honorable Connie Leyva
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 267 (Leyva) – As introduced February 19, 2015 – SPONSOR

Dear Senator Leyva,

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor Senate Bill 267. This legislation would authorize a local agency to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations relating to a registered sex offender's ability to reside or be present at certain locations where children are frequently present.

California has the highest population of sex offenders in the nation with over 82,000 registered. In San Bernardino County, there are over 3,400 registered sex offenders within County boundaries.

The balance between state and local oversight of this matter is disjointed. SB 267 will align state and local jurisdiction's authority to protect children from sexual predators by authorizing local agencies to set policy and adopt local ordinances, rules, or regulations to protect the children that live and play in their communities.

At the state level, under existing law, persons convicted of specified sex offenses are required to register with local authorities for life and, in 2006, voters later approved a measure that further prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within prescribed limits of children.

Recently, the courts have ruled that local jurisdictions are preempted by state law from exercising their police power to enact ordinances further limit the presence of sex offenders within their jurisdiction. This legislation would clarify the Legislature's intent to allow local jurisdictions the authority to enact ordinances deemed necessary to protect their children locally.

It is well-known that sexual violence can have life-long psychological, emotional, and physical effects on a survivor. SB 267 would impose safety precautions in furtherance of the compelling interest of protecting children from sex offenders. This measure is necessary to protect and preserve the innocence of our children and allow them the opportunity to live out their childhood happily and become high-functioning members of society.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor SB 267. We thank you for championing this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino