

Board of Governors

Joan Harrington, Chair
Santa Clara University
School of Law

Fred W. Alvarez
Jones Day

Alina Ball
UC Hastings College of the Law

Barbara J. Chisholm
Altshuler Berzon LLP

Martin R. Glick
Arnold & Porter LLP

Bruce Ives
LifeMoves

Dolores Jimenez
Kaiser Permanente

Leo P. Martinez
UC Hastings College of the Law

Anita D. Stearns Mayo
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Robert H. Olson
Squire Patton Boggs (retired)

Rohit K. Singla
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Staff

Guillermo Mayer
President & CEO

John T. Affeldt
Richard A. Marcantonio
Managing Attorneys

Isabel Alegría
Director of Communication

Liz Guillen
Director of Legislative
& Community Affairs

Deborah Harris
Director of Development

Sumi Paik
Director of Finance &
Administration

Angelica K. Jongco
Samuel Tepperman-Gelfant
David Zisser
Senior Staff Attorneys

Rigel S. Massaro
Chelsea Tu
Staff Attorneys

Michelle Pariset
Policy Advocate

Anne Bellows
Attorney & Equal Justice Works
Fellow

Paulina Almanza
Rodney Nickens
Law Fellows

Patty Leal
Finance Manager

Will Roscoe
Grants Manager

Duc Luu
Senior Communications Associate

Karem Herrera
Legal Administrative Coordinator

Tia Nguyen
Administrative Assistant

Madelyn Wargowski
Development & Administrative
Assistant



January 3, 2017

The Honorable Kevin De León
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (De León) – SUPPORT

Dear Senate President pro Tempore de León:

Public Advocates supports SB 54, your proposal to ensure that state and local resources are not used for mass deportations, separating families, or dividing Californians on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, or national or ethnic origins. SB 54, the California Values Act, upholds California's core values of equal treatment, community, family unity, and common humanity by ensuring that California's police departments, schools, hospitals, and courts remain accessible to Californians from all walks of life. Immigrants are part of California's heart and soul and have deep roots in its neighborhoods and communities.

At this time of rising national division and scapegoating of immigrant communities, SB 54 reaffirms the state's commitment to valuing and protecting its immigrant communities and sends a powerful message of inclusion across the nation. SB 54 will:

1. Prohibit the use of state or local resources to investigate, detain, detect, report, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. State and local law enforcement agencies and school police and security departments will not engage in immigration enforcement.
2. Require state agencies to review their confidentiality policies to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with state agencies. State agencies shall not collect or share information from individuals unless necessary to perform agency duties.
3. Require California schools, hospitals, and courthouses to establish policies limiting immigration enforcement on their premises to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal

and state law. SB 54 also requires that these policies be made public. These community venues will remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status.

California has experienced the harmful effects of entangling local law enforcement agencies with immigration enforcement. Prior to its termination, the discredited “Secure Communities” program (S-Comm) operated in California as an indiscriminate mass deportation program at great cost to California both financially and otherwise. Under S-Comm, California taxpayers spent an estimated \$65 million annually to detain people for ICE.¹ Continuing this entanglement threatens the civil rights and safety of all who reside in California and fosters racial profiling, police mistreatment, and wrongful arrests, which further undermine trust between local communities and law enforcement.

For these reasons, Public Advocates is proud to support SB 54. Thank you for your leadership in making California a safe place for all people. If you have questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Liz Guillen
Director of Legislative & Community Affairs
(916) 803-5596 – cell

Cc: Senate Rules Committee

¹ See Judith Greene, “The Cost of Responding to Immigration Detainers in California,” Justice Strategies Report, August 22, 2012.