

<use organization letterhead>

August 22, 2013

Governor Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 558-3160

Re: Request for Signature - AB 81 (Committee on Budget) - Domestic Violence Mandates

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of <insert organization name here>, I write to express our strong support for AB 81, which would reinstate several fundamental domestic violence mandates that were removed through SB 71 when it was signed into law in June. While we recognize that the state reimbursement of these mandates has been suspended for a significant period of time, the inclusion of the statutory requirements is a fundamental element of our state's criminal justice response to domestic violence. The provisions have existed in statute for decades and should remain there to ensure continuity of standards for community response to domestic violence.

AB 81 restores several mandates, including the requirement that law enforcement agencies maintain a complete record of the domestic violence protective orders in its jurisdiction. Enforcement of domestic violence protective orders is one of the primary protections offered to victims, and the potential consequences of law enforcement not being able to properly enforce these orders are deeply disturbing.

AB 81 would also restore the requirement that every law enforcement agency in the state adopt written policies and standards for officers' responses to domestic violence calls, and also restores the requirement that law enforcement agencies track the number of domestic violence calls they receive and report that number to the California Department of Justice. These policies and procedures are fundamental to local law enforcement's response, and we are concerned that without the mandate law enforcement agencies will not devote the needed attention to ensure they are following best practices.

The requirement for reporting basic information to the Department of Justice is essential for statewide assessments of the scope of domestic violence in California. Without this data from all law enforcement agencies it is impossible to develop a clear picture of the law enforcement response throughout the state. If AB 81 is not signed into law, it will weaken our statewide efforts to prevent and end domestic violence

On behalf of <insert organization name here>, I urge you to sign this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,
<insert name and title here>

Cc: California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (916) 444-7165 (FAX)