



ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Protecting Rights and Promoting Freedom on the Electronic Frontier

March 22, 2017

Assemblymember Shirley Weber
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079
Tel: (916) 319-2079
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Re: A.B. 90 – Support

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

I am writing today on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco that protects free speech in the digital world. Founded in 1990, EFF has over 36,000 members, including thousands in California.

EFF lends our strong support to A.B. 90, the legislation you have introduced to enhance accountability regarding the CalGang database. The bill builds upon last year's monumental gang database reform bill, A.B. 2298, to address many of the shortfalls raised by the 2016 California State Auditor investigation into CalGang.

As the audit concluded, CalGang violates people's rights, operates with virtually no oversight, is full of unsubstantiated information and data that should have been purged, and therefore has little value in protecting public safety.

A.B. 90 would require new standards and regulations for operating a shared gang database, including audits. Further, the bill would create a new advisory committee comprised of all stakeholders—including a public defender, civil liberties expert, and the parent of a juvenile who had been included in a gang database—as opposed to just representatives from law enforcement. The legislation would further ensure that Californians are removed from shared gang databases when no new evidence has emerged for two years linking them to gang activity.

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All these measures will go a long way to ensure that Californians are not improperly included in these databases and police do not use the system to violate Californians' rights to privacy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how we may further lend our assistance to passing A.B. 90. I may be reached by email at dm@eff.org or by phone at 415-436-9333 ext. 151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMAS', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dave Maass
Investigative Researcher
Electronic Frontier Foundation