



## Alliance of California Judges

August 25, 2014

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Hancock,

After careful consideration, the Alliance of California Judges has joined a growing coalition of groups opposing Senate Bill 210.

We believe SB 210 presents an unnecessary risk to public safety, and would require lengthy and expensive pretrial investigations which courts and counties are ill-equipped to absorb in this period of budget cuts and closed courtrooms.

We are further concerned about a legislative mandate that would require judges to base their decisions on risk assessments that may be compromised by faulty data, or on research that may be agenda-driven rather than scientific.

Existing law currently gives judges appropriate latitude in setting bail and ordering pretrial release. Moreover, the California Constitution mandates that public safety be the prime consideration in granting a pretrial release: California Constitution Article 1, Section 28(f)(3), reiterates that the judge or magistrate must consider the protection of the public, the safety of the victim, the seriousness of the offense, the defendant's criminal record, and the probability that the defendant will appear at trial. Public safety and the safety of the victim "shall be the primary considerations."

For these reasons, we join the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the California District Attorneys Association, the California Police Chiefs Association, and other law enforcement and public safety organizations in opposing SB 210.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve White", written over a blue horizontal line.

Judge Steve White

President

Alliance of California Judges