



COUNTY OF SONOMA  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Hall Of Justice 600 Administration Dr. Rm. 212-J, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 565-2311 FAX (707) 565-2762 [www.sonoma-county.org/da](http://www.sonoma-county.org/da)

**JILL R. RAVITCH**  
District Attorney

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4038  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: Senate Bill 10 - Support**

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

As Sonoma County District Attorney, I am writing to convey my support of SB10. The bill is a comprehensive approach to reforming the bail system currently in effect, and I believe promotes public safety in a more productive manner.

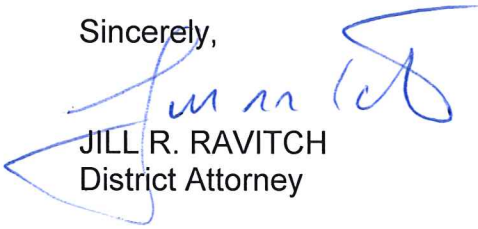
The current bail system awards freedom pending trial to those who can afford the cost, rather than those who present the least danger to the alleged victim or the community. To that end, I have been an advocate for a better means of evaluating risk and ensuring that a defendant will make court appearances. I urged the executive committee of our Community Corrections Partnership to set aside significant funds to study and create a pretrial risk assessment tool. We did so, and then established a pretrial services team in the jail to use that tool to prepare pretrial services report for all offenders. The reports are called SPRAT reports and are made available to the court and council at the first appearance of the offender in court. As a result of this process we have greatly reduced our pretrial population in the jail and have employed the use of GPS bracelets as well as automated reminder calls to offenders with court dates, among other tools.

Sonoma County is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of using the SPRAT report and we've found that 87% of defendants do not fail to make a subsequent court date and 95% of those on pretrial supervision do not incur a new criminal referral. Our pretrial program has recently expanded to include a mental health evaluation and recommendation for treatment during the pendency of the action to again direct defendants to services outside of the jail setting, thus alleviating crowding and assisting the population in addressing whatever issues may have contributed to their arrest and incarceration.

The courts are clogged, justice is often delayed longer than it should be. Having worked as a defense attorney for three years during my over 30 years practicing criminal law, I know that defendants will opt to plead to charges they didn't commit in

order to gain freedom, get back to work, or rejoin their families. We can do better to ensure a fair system to all regardless of socio-economic background, while at the same time promoting public safety. I'm pleased to find that the Court is joining the effort to develop a better means of evaluating fitness for release pending trial or disposition. It is only with the cooperation of all involved in the criminal justice system, and the legislative branch, that we can bring meaningful change. I offer my support and assistance in making that happen.

Sincerely,



JILL R. RAVITCH  
District Attorney