

ALLIANCE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SEX OFFENSE LAWS
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April 19, 2023

Senator Thomas J. Umberg, Chair
Senator Scott Wilk, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 2100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 809 – STRONG UPPORT

Dear Chairman Umberg, Vice Chairman Wilk and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the strong support of the Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (ACSOL) for Senate Bill 809, which is scheduled to be heard on April 25, 2023, by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

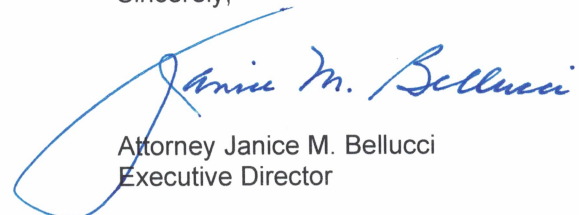
As currently written, Senate Bill 809 would ensure that an individual's conviction history would not prevent a qualified candidate from employment. Specifically, the bill would prohibit employers from conducting criminal background checks on job applicants as well as making employment decisions on that basis unless authorized by state or federal law.

Senate Bill 809 would build upon the Fair Chances Act passed by the legislature in 2017. Although that legislation was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor, some employers continue to use conviction history to deny people jobs even though their conviction has no relationship to the job duties or responsibilities. This unlawful discrimination requires further action to ensure that people with convictions have a fair chance to compete for employment based upon their individual merits.

During your consideration of Senate Bill 809, ACSOL strongly requests that the Senate Judiciary Committee refuse to create or accept an exception for people convicted of a sex offense from the benefits of this legislation. Similar to others who have suffered a conviction, people convicted of a sex offense require employment in order to successfully reenter society and participate fully as a contributing and positive member of their community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. As stated above, ACSOL strongly supports Senate Bill 809 as currently written.

Sincerely,



Attorney Janice M. Bellucci
Executive Director