



June 2, 2009

Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 714 – Support


Dear Senator Leno:

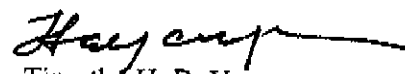
The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners, and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County – is pleased to support AB 714.

AB 714 expands the definition of “metal knuckles” to include “composite knuckles” which can be defined to include the elements contained in the definition of hard plastic and hard wooden knuckles.

You don't read much or hear about composite knuckles as an element of today's crime scene, but they are readily available on the street or through the internet. Many young persons heading for a life of crime start by carrying these composite knuckles, which like composite knives can inflict deadly force and are not detected by metal detectors. The devices pose a threat to peace officers in our jails, juvenile camps, courts, as well as to the public at large. Their use in gang warfare in and around schools is known to be a real danger.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President


Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Assemblymember Mike Feuer