



September 17, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 870 – SIGN

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

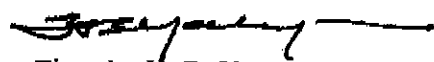
The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file Deputy Sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - supports AB 870 and asks that it be signed into law.

AB 870 makes it a misdemeanor to possess or bring a razor blade or box cutter onto school grounds. Schools individually forbid any instruments of potential harm being brought to their campuses and tell their students not to bring them. Students may respond with a self defense plea or the rationale that a razor blade or box cutter is small and have legitimate uses. However, that does not diminish their potential danger to others, and this bill magnifies that fact by adding razor blades and box cutters to a long list, including daggers, ice picks, knives, a taser, a stun gun, BB or pellet gun, any gun, etc. as a new misdemeanor if taken to school. Schools cannot tolerate any escalating violence.

You don't read much or hear about razor blades or box cutters as an element of today's crime scene. However, they are readily available to any student who wishes to carry them for legitimate use, as a form of self protection, or as a potential weapon. But like other outlawed weapons on campus, there is the potential for inflicting deadly force and they can pose a threat to the student body at large. Their use in gang warfare in and around schools is a real danger. Your consideration of AB 870 is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President


Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Assemblymember Huber
OPR