



March 18, 2010

Honorable Martin Garrick, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1848 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garrick:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - is pleased to support your bill, AB 1848.

AB 1848 would prohibit anyone from possessing motorcycle theft devices designed to by-pass the factory-installed ignition and to facilitate the unlawful taking of a motorcycle without the consent of the owner. One such device is known as a "pigtail." Thieves who are in possession of this particular device can steal a motorcycle in about 20 seconds.

Of the ten states with the highest motorcycle theft rate, California ranks number one with more than 7,100 reported as stolen in 2008. One of the main reasons motorcycle theft has escalated is due to the current language in Penal Code section 466. PC section 466 prohibits possession of "burglary tools," which include auto theft tools such as slim jims and shaved keys since it is a "burglary" to enter a locked motor vehicle. Also prohibited are "other instrument (s) or tool(s)" with the intent to commit burglary. This does not apply to motorcycles. These items are *not* illegal to possess if the possessor intends to steal a motorcycle because that crime does not involve burglary.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President



Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: Consultants – Assembly Public Safety Committee
RSA
Gail Brockman Stewart, San Diego District Attorney's Office (Sponsor)