



April 8, 2010

Honorable Tom Ammiano, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2140 (Solorio) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ammiano:

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 – supports AB 2140 (Solorio).

AB 2140 acknowledges that for all the well intended efforts of law enforcement to protect the state's communities from gang activity, there are no state law enforcement agencies with programs that are specifically designed to coordinate the multijurisdictional task forces that are targeting California's gang problems. For many years gangs existed in small concentrated pockets, but today's gangs are widespread, bigger, more violent – involving drug trafficking, murder, robbery, assaults, carjacking, arson, kidnapping, and even computer fraud. Today this state has designated areas of "high intensity drug trafficking" by gangs, and AB 2140 creates the High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas Task Force (HIIGA Task Force) within the Emergency Management Agency. (EMA) Its goal is to enhance prevention efforts by reaching out beyond local initiative to utilize local, state, and even federal law enforcement plus the infrastructure and joint initiatives necessary to confront this massive hornet's nest of crime. This effort is deserving of support.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. E. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: Consultants, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Assemblymember Jose Solorio
RSA