



August 11, 2010

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

RE: SB 525 – SIGN

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

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 SB 525 and asks that it be signed into law.

Current law provides for the unauthorized possession of a cell phone in a local correctional facility. It is currently a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. SB 525 makes changes to current law in raising the fine up to \$5,000 per device, and any visitor who attempts to bring in a cell phone shall have the phone confiscated.

We have been historically educated to the potential danger of what cell phones in correctional facilities can do, but certainly have been more than made aware of potential harm as each year the number of hidden devices grows. *The number growing from 261 phones detected in 2006 to 6,995 cell phone discovered in state prisons last year has huge implications of impending danger.* These phones are not used by inmates to phone home! CDCR Secretary Cates acknowledges inmates can use hidden cell phones to order others to commit criminal activities *outside* of prison and *within*. These phones can be used to order a *hit*, make a *threat*, communicate with *gangs* in other prisons, use a *stolen credit card*, communicate with *drug traffickers*, or even make plans to *escape*.

We are pleased to join with many other peace officers supporting this bill. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President
cc: Senator Alex Padilla
RSA

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate