



January 28, 2010

Honorable Leland Yee, Ph.D., Member  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4074  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 662 – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Yee:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, representing 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 SB 662, if amended.

In the last 20 years incidents of domestic violence in California had grown, and the Legislature came to realize that in some parts of the state, there were few or no shelters to shield those (mainly mothers and children) who were subject to the violence initiated by domestic partners. To address this growing problem, a \$23 fee was imposed with every marriage license issued, and these funds continue to be used to support local shelters. That funding action was completed in 1993. Since then, local shelters have received these funds supplemented by charitable donations, the good will of generous volunteers, and local assistance. SB 662 increases the fee by \$10.00 to maintain service levels of shelters. In this time of a tough economy and tight budgets, we agree shelters need more financial help. Unfortunately, given the difficult public safety issues now facing California, many jurisdictions are also facing serious set backs in police services which will have a direct and immediate adverse impact on incidents of domestic violence. We think this problem also needs to be addressed. We therefore recommend your bill be amended to provide an additional \$5.00 for local law enforcement jurisdictions to be used exclusively for enforcement of domestic violence incidents. We think this funding is needed to protect the immediate safety of victims of domestic violence.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara  
Presidents

Timothy H. B. Yaryan  
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA Board of Directors