



March 28, 2003

Honorable Bob Pacheco, Member
CA State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 355 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco:

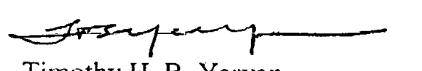
The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 2,000 Deputy Sheriffs, Deputy Probation Officers, District Attorney Investigators, and Deputy Coroners, the entire law enforcement team in the County of Riverside, is pleased to support your bill, AB 355.

A recent appellate court decision helped identify two "loopholes" in the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 871 pertaining to the escape of any person committed to a juvenile detention facility. This measure simply requests a change in the wording of the language to "escape from a juvenile detention facility, (W & I 871)."

With passage of this bill, "escape from the site of a working field trip" and "escape from a Regional Facility" will now be covered and added to the Code Section, and will ensure that persons who have been committed to juvenile detention facilities can be held accountable for escapes, including escapes from the site of working field trips and Regional Centers.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President


Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA