



"SERVING OUR MEMBERS FROM EAST TO WEST"

June 4, 2003

Honorable Bruce McPherson, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator McPherson:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 2,000 rank and file 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 AB 187.

This bill would create new crimes. Currently, existing law defines assault and battery as any willful and/or unlawful attempt or use of force or violence to commit a violent injury upon the person of another. Such acts are punishable by a \$1,000 fine or by both fine and imprisonment.

This measure specifies that the assault crime of battery upon the personage of a member of the United State Armed Forces shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$2,000, imprisonment in a county jail for a period not to exceed one year, or by both a fine and imprisonment. Military service today is generally considered in a favorable manner, but there have been times in the past when returning soldiers have been assaulted and ridiculed for their military actions. This legislation intends to avert any such reactions in the future.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Consultants and Members – Senate Public Safety Committee