



## Riverside Police Officers' Association

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**Assemblyman Joel Anderson,**

Subject: Assembly Bill 509

The Riverside Police Officers' Association would like to join the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, California District Attorneys Association, Riverside Sheriffs' Association, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, San Diego District Attorney, and the Peace Officer's Research Association of California (PORAC) in their support for Assembly Bill 509.

Everyone has seen at least one horrific traffic collision due to a police pursuit on live newscasts or television shows. However, many of us in the law enforcement profession have unfortunately been witness to them right before our eyes. Vehicle pursuits are often a desperate act of violent criminals that can result in truly innocent victims. Police pursuits put law enforcement in a difficult position because we do not want any innocent people to get hurt yet we are expected to apprehend criminals. When we turn on the lights and siren, whether for traffic violations or a criminal investigation, the suspect failing to yield and creating a pursuit puts motorists, pedestrians, and others in the area in danger. The suspect vehicle becomes a one-ton, often out of control, missile that each officer involved in the pursuit prays does not injure anyone. Because of this, we support the concept of clarifying the law and enhancing prosecutions for police pursuits and believe the changes detailed in Assembly Bill 509 are appropriate.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Townsend*

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