



October 4, 2026

To the Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Vice Chair, Senate Committee of Education
1021 O Street, Suite 7220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 72 - Support with Amendments

Dear Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh and Senate Committee of Education

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 72 An Act Related to Peace Officer Amended Training.

As current codes state California peace officers must adhere to strict screenings before being stationed as an officer. These screenings include but are not limited to, physical screenings, mental health screenings, and screenings against any bias that may hinder an officer's ability to efficiently carry out duties. However, we are aware that one time screenings are not always fully effective. We are also aware that many of our officers may bear witness to many traumatic and life altering situations which can ultimately affect their mental standing.

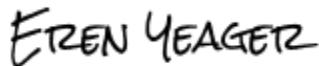
Due to these facts we are asking that officers stationed in public schools receive further mental and physical health screenings. Additional screenings would allow any officer with deteriorating mental or physical health to be removed immediately. Understanding the specific training required for different school districts is important and we agree with them being conducted on a five year basis unless otherwise needed. However, these additional screenings aim to target problems that may not be addressed with regards to what is needed in a school.

On May 24, 2022 there was an unfortunate incident in Uvalde, Texas where an armed individual opened fire in an elementary school. The response seen from the police officers who were sent out was a poor reflection on our department and we are looking to take corrective actions against situations such as that one. Providing our officers with these additional screenings will ensure that they are mentally and physically fortified to handle the very serious threats that may appear on school grounds. As well as providing extra support for our officers after handling high stress situations.

We ask that Senate Bill 72 is amended to also include amendments to Section 13510 of the Penal Code and amendments to Section 1031 of the Government Code. Section 13510 of the Penal Code states that officers must be held to minimum standards for physical and mental health which is to be assessed once before being appointed. We ask for an amendment which would make it so officers must adhere to maximum physical and mental well being that is to be assessed through repeated (quarterly) screenings while they are in active service. Section 1031 of the Government code states that an officer must be of good moral character which is determined through a background check. We propose that good moral character is determined through repeated psychological evaluations as well as a background check. To maintain accuracy and consistency with peace officer behavioral records these quarterly screenings are to be conducted by the mental health professional that screened them initially. Though a background check is important, ultimately a psychological evaluation has the advantage of revealing biases or negative thoughts that otherwise remain hidden.

For these reasons we support SB-72 and strongly urge for our proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "EREN YEAGER". The letters are slightly slanted and connected in a cursive-like style.

Abby Silva (She/her) - Lobbyist

PORAC / CCPOA / California Association for Highway Patrolmen

