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August 20, 2013

Assembly Member Mike Gatto, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to SB 594 (Hill): Measure would silence the voice of police, sheriffs, cities, counties, special districts, public safety, schools and others.**

Dear Chairman Gatto:

On behalf of (city, county, special district, school, chamber), I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 594 (Hill) as recently amended. This last-minute gut-and-amend legislation would silence the voice of nonprofit organizations representing local governments, police and sheriffs, schools, businesses and others by stopping these organizations from participating in state and local ballot initiative campaigns. In doing so, SB 594 would silence the voice of trusted organizations on matters of critical importance to the residents of California.

This last minute gut-and-amend is being promoted by a few special interests wishing to increase their influence by silencing important and engaged organizations that may not always agree with their political positions.

SB 594 is a solution in search of a problem. California already has strong laws on the books that prohibit the use of public funds in political campaigns and the organizations representing local governments take great care to ensure they do not expend public resources on campaigns.

Lastly, SB 594 creates vast new responsibilities for the Attorney General to conduct biennial audits of thousands of nonprofit organizations that receive more than 20 percent of their annual revenues from one or more local agencies. This would create a new and costly bureaucracy at the Attorney General's office, as well as time-consuming and costly audits for nonprofit organizations.

We are joining the broad coalition of sheriffs, police, cities, counties, special districts, schools and others in opposition to SB 594. We hope you will join us by rejecting this measure when it is heard in Assembly Appropriations.

Sincerely,

Name, Title  
Organization

Cc: Assembly Member Diane L. Harkey, Vice Chair  
Assembly Member Franklin E. Bigelow  
Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra  
Assembly Member Steven Bradford  
Assembly Member Ian C. Calderon

Assembly Member Nora Campos  
Assembly Member Tim Donnelly  
Assembly Member Susan T. Eggman  
Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez  
Assembly Member Isadore Hall, III  
Assembly Member Chris R. Holden  
Assembly Member Eric Linder  
Assembly Member Richard Pan  
Assembly Member Bill Quirk  
Assembly Member Donald P. Wagner  
Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber