

Palos Verdes
Democrats
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June 25, 2017

The Honorable Mark Stone
Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (de León) California Values Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stone,

The Palos Verdes Democrats write in strong support of SB 54 (de León), the California Values Act. This important legislation will protect the safety and well-being of all Californians by ensuring that our state and local resources are not used to fuel mass deportations and our schools, libraries, health facilities, shelters, Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) facilities and courts remain accessible to all Californians.

The Palos Verdes Democrats is a club chartered by CADEM. We meet monthly and our current membership totals about 170 individuals.

President Trump's threat to deport three million people targets the most vulnerable members of our communities. Using local police to carry out mass deportations fuels racial profiling and wrongful arrests, and further undermines trust between communities and law enforcement. Now, more than ever, California must stand up to Trump policies and protect our values of inclusion and equality.

SB 54 would disentangle local law enforcement from the business of deportations by prohibiting local resources from being used for immigration enforcement purposes. Under SB 54, state and local law enforcement agencies, school police, and security departments cannot engage in immigration enforcement except in narrow circumstances. With a few exceptions, no state or local resources will be used to investigate, detain, detect, report, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. And regardless of whether state or local resources are implicated, state or local law enforcement agencies will be prohibited from detaining any person for deportation without a judicial warrant.

Additionally, the bill will also create safer spaces at schools, libraries, courthouses, shelters, DLSE facilities, and health care facilities, by limiting immigration enforcement at these locations. Each public entity shall establish and make public policies that limit assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law.

President Trump has made clear that he intends to create the "deportation force" he spoke of on the campaign trail, and to coerce states and localities into serving on the frontlines. The California Values Act makes clear that California—the state with the largest immigrant population in the nation—will not waste our limited resources on deporting our community members. We will not participate in a witch hunt to demonize immigrants, who are part of our state's heart and soul. We will not compromise the civil rights and safety of our residents in order to facilitate a deportation machine that would tear our families apart. We will respect due process and uphold the equal protection of the laws, no matter what.

Our members voted overwhelmingly to support SB 54 because we are a nation of immigrants and have become a better country due to the very people Trump is targeting. We believe in patriotism but not nationalism. In the final analysis, we feel supporting this bill is the right thing to do. The California Values Act will ensure that California stands with all immigrants and provides a safeguard against divisive and discriminatory policies. The Palos Verdes Democrats are proud to strongly support SB 54. Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Moeller".

Carol Moeller
President Emeritus, Palos Verdes Democrats