Staff Memorandum 2026-17
Written Comment Related to the October 27, 2026 Meeting

This memorandum collects written comment related to the Committee's meeting held on October 27, 2026.

Exhibit	Submitted by
A	California Mandela Campaign and California Families Against Solitary Confinement
B	Julia Romanenko
C	Gunner Johnson
D	Kalisha Jackson
E	Olivia Gleason on behalf of Arthur Jackson, The People in Blue
F	Syntara Fuller
G	Placer County District Attorney's Office and Crime Victims United

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Nosewicz
Legal Director

Exhibit A

California Mandela Campaign and California Families Against Solitary Confinement

October 26, 2026

Michael Romano, Chair Committee on Revision of the Penal Code Via email

Re: Staff Memorandum 2026-13 (Restricted Housing) and Staff Memorandum 2026-16 (Proposed 2026 Annual Report Recommendations) — October 27, 2026 meeting

Dear Chair Romano and Members of the Committee:

The California Mandela Campaign and California Families Against Solitary Confinement respectfully ask the Committee to include a recommendation on solitary confinement in its 2026 Annual Report. **Specifically, we request that the Committee recommend that the Legislature define the practice of solitary confinement and impose limits on its use.**

The Committee's current memorandum proposes further study. The time for study is long over. The Legislature examined these questions more than a decade ago, in response to the historic hunger strikes protesting conditions of solitary confinement in California's prisons, and the record against the use of solitary has only grown since.

In 2013, a 60-day hunger strike which began at Pelican Bay State Prison, in which some 30,000 people took part, ended only after the chairs of the Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees promised hearings. Joint hearings on solitary confinement began on October 9, 2013. In 2014, AB 1652 (Ammiano) would have limited solitary to serious rule violations with fixed terms and capped SHU time at five years; it cleared Public Safety and Appropriations before failing on the Assembly floor. In 2022, the Legislature passed the California Mandela Act, AB 2632, and in 2023 both houses again passed the Mandela Act as AB 280. Two members of this Committee, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (former member of the Committee) and Senator Scott Wiener, supported that legislation. Another year of study will not change that record.

Solitary confinement cannot continue to be governed by regulation

The length of a prison sentence is set by statute. The most severe conditions a person can face inside prison should be, too. Today, whether a person is isolated, for what conduct, and for how long are left almost entirely to CDCR's own regulations.

The rules keep changing. In three years, California has had three restricted housing regimes: the 2023 reforms, the May 2026 emergency regulations, and their renewal through December 2026. Each was made by the department, and the latest by emergency rulemaking. The standards can be rewritten again without a vote of the Legislature.

The rules are moving backward. CDCR has renamed its units, from "SHU" to "restricted housing," but its newest rules take more away. People in restricted housing and in Privilege Group C can no longer buy even a few basic food items from the canteen, under CDCR's privilege group changes (15 CCR § 3044, now in effect by emergency regulation and proposed permanently in NCR 26-04). They are already isolated, with little or no human contact and little

or no access to programs. Taking away food serves no public safety purpose. It only deepens the harm to a person's mind and moves further from rehabilitation. And because the new rules widen who can be sent to restricted housing, more people now face these conditions.

The rules are not followed. Even under the 2023 reforms, the Inspector General found that units housing people receiving mental health care frequently failed to provide the required time out of cell and treatment. Limits set and policed by the same agency are not enough.

No outside check remains. For years, the Ashker settlement and federal court oversight constrained how California used solitary. That oversight has ended. Without a statute, nothing outside the department holds the line.

Regulations reach only state prisons. CDCR's rules do not govern county jails or immigration detention, where people are also held in isolation. Only the Legislature can set one standard for all of them.

The harms of prolonged isolation are well documented, as the memorandum itself notes. A practice with consequences this grave belongs in the Penal Code, not in rules that shift with each new administration and each new emergency.

What the Committee's recommendation should address

The Committee need not resolve every detail. We ask that its recommendation call on the Legislature to:

1. Define solitary confinement, so that the same practice cannot be renamed and continued.
2. Set statutory limits on when it may be used and for how long.
3. Apply those limits to state prisons, county jails and immigration detention.
4. Require public reporting on who is held in isolation, for how long, and with what outcomes.

Survivors of the Pelican Bay hunger strikes and the Ashker litigation won the reforms this memorandum describes. Those reforms should not depend on regulations that can be undone. We ask the Committee to recommend that they be written into law.

Respectfully,

Dolores Canales, Director, California Families Against Solitary Confinement, [redacted]

Pamila Lew, Esq., California Mandela Campaign, [redacted]

cc: Thomas M. Nosewicz, Legal Director (tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov)

Exhibit B

Julia Romanenko

10/27/26 Penal Code Committee Public Comment Reckless Driving Homicide

Julia Romanenko [redacted] Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 12:03 PM
To: tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov, jhaviland@clrc.ca.gov, rowen@clrc.ca.gov

Good afternoon, Honorable Chair and distinguished members of the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on these critically important issues.

We represent a growing coalition of victims' families and supporting organizations united in the fight against reckless driving and vehicular homicide. We urge California's Committee on Revision of the Penal Code to recommend comprehensive legislative reforms that strengthen criminal accountability, protect public safety, and address vehicular homicide and reckless driving resulting in death or great bodily injury.

California must close the legal loopholes that allow drivers who kill or seriously injure others to avoid meaningful criminal accountability.

We respectfully request that the Committee recommend:

1. **Eliminating diversion eligibility** under Penal Code §§ 1001.36 and 1001.95, and other applicable diversion statutes, for vehicular manslaughter and reckless-driving offenses resulting in death or great bodily injury, regardless of misdemeanor or felony classification.

2. **Amending Penal Code § 977** to require defendants charged with vehicular manslaughter to personally appear at critical court proceedings, including arraignment, plea hearings, and sentencing, with narrowly defined exceptions.

3. **Strengthening DMV accountability** through mandatory reporting of fatal and serious-injury crashes, criminal case dispositions, and licensing actions. Criminal charge dismissals should not erase independently reportable driving histories or prevent appropriate licensing consequences.

4. **Protecting victims' constitutional rights under Marsy's Law** by ensuring timely notification, meaningful participation, and transparency throughout criminal proceedings.

5. **Preventing repeat diversion and accountability loopholes** that allow individuals responsible for fatal or serious-injury crashes to avoid convictions, retain driving privileges, and potentially qualify for diversion again.

The loss of human life is permanent. Yet California law can allow a vehicular manslaughter case to end through diversion, with dismissed charges, no criminal conviction, and potentially no corresponding DMV conviction points.

Rehabilitation and mental health treatment are important, but they should not replace criminal accountability when criminal driving conduct causes death or great bodily injury.

We ask the Committee to prioritize public safety, meaningful deterrence, victims' rights, and consequences proportionate to the irreversible harm caused.

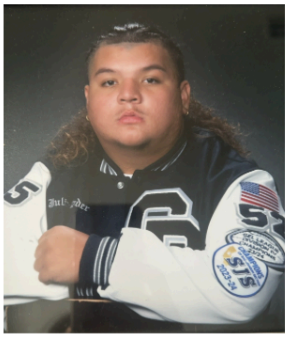
Preventable deaths on California roads must no longer be treated as minor criminal offenses simply because they involve a motor vehicle.

Our Joint Petition is attached to this email.

JOINT PETITION.pdf
3655K

JOINT PETITION FOR POLICY REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN RECKLESS DRIVING FATALITIES IN CALIFORNIA





VICTIMS OF CALIFORNIA RECKLESS DRIVING

Peyton Stewart (21), Asha Weir (21), Deslyn Williams (21), Niamh Rolston (20), Connor Lopez (23), Misha Romanenko (27), Yui Garewal (43), Robert Peel (59), Giada Lancellotti (13), Braun Levi (18), Jose Luis Silva (55), Justyn Snyder (29), Greg Ammen (44), Grace Spiridon (42), Drew Pringle (21), Braiden Flynn (20), Matilde Pinto (38), Diego Oliveira (40), Joaquim Oliveira (1), Caue Oliveira (3 m), Julian Snyder (17)

We, the victim families, friends, community members, and advocates, submit this petition in response to a **growing and urgent public safety crisis** across the State of California: the **continued loss of human life caused by reckless driving**.

According to the California Office of Traffic Safety, traffic fatalities in California have risen in recent years, reflecting a dangerous trend of increasing speed, reckless behavior, and disregard for traffic laws. Behind every number is a human life—taken suddenly, violently, and permanently.

They are preventable deaths.

Reckless driving—speeding, illegal turns, street racing, and other conscious violations of the law—are deliberate actions. When these actions result in death, they destroy the human body and end a life. Yet, under current California law and practice, these cases are frequently minimized, inconsistently prosecuted, or resolved without meaningful accountability.

This is not an accident crisis. It is an accountability crisis.

Under existing statutes, including reckless driving (California Vehicle Code §23103) and vehicular manslaughter (California Penal Code §192(c)), the law provides mechanisms to hold individuals accountable. However, these laws are often under-enforced or applied in ways that fail to reflect the severity of taking a human life.

The result is a system where:

Preventable deaths are treated as low-level offenses
Sentencing outcomes vary widely and lack proportionality
Deterrence is minimal or nonexistent
Families are left without meaningful justice
We reject a system that diminishes the value of human life.

We affirm that:

Deaths caused by reckless driving are foreseeable and preventable
The act of killing with a vehicle through reckless conduct is violent in its outcome and irreversible
A lack of accountability enables repeated harm and endangers every Californian
We call for immediate action in California:

1. **Full Enforcement of Existing Laws** Prosecutors and courts must apply current reckless driving and vehicular manslaughter statutes to their full extent when a life is taken. Reductions that minimize the severity of the offense must be re-evaluated.

2. **Meaningful and Consistent Sentencing** Establish and implement sentencing standards that reflect the gravity of taking a human life through reckless conduct. Consequences must be proportionate and consistent across counties to ensure true deterrence.

3. **Prohibit diversion programs for reckless driving offenses resulting in death or serious bodily injury**, ensuring that cases involving the loss of life or catastrophic injury receive full judicial review, meaningful accountability, and appropriate consequences.

4. **Mandatory Driver License Revocation** Following Fatal Reckless Driving Establish a mandatory minimum five-year driver license revocation for individuals convicted of reckless driving offenses resulting in death, including reckless driving causing fatal crashes and related felony offenses.

For drivers under age 25 who cause a fatal crash through reckless driving, the mandatory license suspension shall remain in effect until age 30, recognizing the heightened risk associated with young drivers and the profound responsibility that comes with taking a human life.

Driving is a privilege that carries responsibility at any age; when reckless driving results in the loss of life, license revocation is necessary to ensure accountability, protect public safety.

4. **Legislative Review and Reform The California State Legislature** must conduct a comprehensive review of reckless driving and vehicular manslaughter statutes, including California Vehicle Code §23103 and California Penal Code §192(c), to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and failures in application. Reforms must strengthen deterrence, accountability, and protection of human life.

5. **Statewide Transparency and Data Reporting** Require uniform, transparent reporting of fatalities caused by reckless driving, including charging outcomes, plea agreements, sentencing data, and repeat offender information.

6. **Victim-Centered Justice** Ensures victims and their families are recognized and respected throughout the legal process, with meaningful participation, timely information, and outcomes that reflect the magnitude of loss.

We urge the California Department of Justice, district attorneys, and courts across California to act with urgency and integrity.

Every failure to enforce the law, every minimized charge, and every insufficient sentence sends a message that human life on our roads is not valued or fully protected.

Human life must carry greater weight than driving privileges.

When reckless driving takes a life, accountability must be real, consequences must be meaningful, and prevention must become policy.

This petition stands for those whose lives were taken, for the families left behind, and for every Californian who deserves to be safe on our roads.

Change and enforce the law. Ensure accountability. Protect life.

Undersigned:

Stewart family
Weir Family
Williams Family
Rolston Family
Lopez Family
Romanenko Family
Garewal Family
Peel Family
Lancellotti Family
Levi Family
Silva Family
Snyder Family
Flynn Family
Pinto Family
Oliveira Family
Snyder Family
Correia Family
Stop Reckless Driving
FourLivesWestPortal
Justice Forgotten
Pringle Family
Spiridon Family
Ammen Family

Exhibit C

Gunner Johnson

Public Comments

Joshua Gunner Johnson [redacted]u> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 4:30 PM
To: "tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov" <tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov>

BPH Executive Committee,

Attached is a copy of my statement for public comment for today's Executive Committee meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Gunner Johnson M.A.

(he, him, his)

Director, Underground Scholars Program

Office of Educational Opportunity and Enrichment Services

UC Davis

Schedule a meeting with Calendly.

"Redefining second chances through higher education"

Public Comment Gunner Johnson 10-27-2026.docx
23K

Board of Parole Hearings
Executive Board Meeting
PO Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

My name is Gunner Johnson. On December 20, 1994, I was shot twice and my friend, Patrick Klein, was murdered.

I speak today as a survivor, and as a member of group of survivors who have lost loved ones to murder. Our group, Survivor Action for Equity, (SAFE) has nearly 70 members and we are growing.

We know what it means to lose someone to violence. We know grief. We know trauma. And we know that healing does not have to mean giving up on accountability.

SAFE is grounded in the belief that survivors deserve support, dignity, and the freedom to define what justice and healing mean for us. Our losses have taught us that accountability and rehabilitation are not mutually exclusive, and that a person's worst act does not have to define the entirety of their life.

We also believe the parole process works. Fewer than 1 percent of people released following a parole hearing are convicted of a new felony involving harm to another person.

National research challenges the assumption that the majority of survivors simply want more punishment. A 2022 national survey of survivors of violent crime found that two thirds of crime survivors preferred a justice system focused on rehabilitation.

We believe in the possibility of change, and for that reason we support the recently approved Recall and Commutation regulations, and their application to people sentenced to LWOP and other extreme sentences. We believe people who have caused profound harm can take responsibility, demonstrate transformation, and earn a second chance.

Today, as you meet here in a California Institute for Men for the first time, we ask you to hear our voices and recognize our humanity as survivors.

Our loved ones mattered. Their lives mattered. And we believe that honoring them is compatible with believing in second chances.

Respectfully,

Gunner Johnson

Joshua Gunner Johnson M.A.
Director, Underground Scholars Program
University California Davis
I Shields Ave.
Davis, California 95616
[redacted]

Exhibit D

Kalisha Jackson

1 Pill Can Kill and it Does! New Legislation For Fentanyl Victims in 2027, Jayana's Law

Kalisha Daniel Jackson [redacted]> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 4:32 PM
To: "tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov" <tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov>, "jhaviland@clrc.ca.gov" <jhaviland@clrc.ca.gov>, rowen@clcr.ca.gov

Hello Chair and Members of the Commission,

My name is Kalisha Jackso. I'm a CA resident and the biological Aunt of Jayana Mariah Nash. My niece, Jayana, tragically lost her life after being poisoned by Fentanyl while at the home of an acquaintance in Roseville, Ca in Feb 2024. She was only 18 years old.

Jayana was more than a statistic or another name associated with the Fentanyl crisis. She was a daughter, a grand-daughter, a great grand-daughter, a sister, a niece, a cousin and a friend. Jayana was truly loved and had a bright future ahead of her. She deserved the opportunity to live a full life, to be a wife and a mom one day. But this will never happen. Our families will carry her horrific loss for the rest of our lives.

After a lengthy year-long investigation by the Placer County PD, Fentanyl Investigation unit, the decision was made not to file charges against the person who provided Jayana with the Fentanyl pill. This is because her initial blood sample collected at the hospital was discarded before law enforcement could obtain it as evidence and send it to a crime lab for the further analysis needed to file murder charges.

This nightmare has pushed me to become involved in public policy. I am still learning how the legislative process works, how decisions are made, and how everyday people like myself can have a voice. I'm currently working with the Placer County DA Office to pass the Jayana Justice Act in 2027 (see attached). Jayana's Law would mandate that hospitals preserve the initial blood sample of Fentanyl overdose victims who are not under a physician's care for the drug. It will also mandate that Hospitals contact local law enforcement upon detection of Fentanyl in a patient's blood when the patient is not under a physician's care for the drug. Had these things been done in Jayana's case, the Placer County DA would have been able to file murder charges, as they wanted to.

And that brings me to a question I want to respectfully ask this commission. As a body that has enormous influence over recommendations affecting California's Penal Code, what is the representation of people who have lost loved someone? Is there someone on this commission who brings that lived experience? Is there someone who is an expert on the civil rights of crime victims? Is there someone who understands what it means to say good-bye to someone they love because of a criminal act, and then also be told that no justice will be served for their loved one? I ask because that perspective is not simply important but I believe it's essential.

The Penal Code is not just a collection of statutes, sentences, and legal procedures. It represents the laws we rely upon to protect our communities, deter criminal behavior, hold offenders accountable, and prevent future tragedies. And while we often discuss criminal justice policy in terms of the people accused or convicted of crimes, we must also consider the people who have lost their lives, the families left behind, and the communities that live with the consequences.

Preventing future crime must be just as central to these conversations as reforming the system itself. I am not here to suggest that my experience makes me an expert on every issue before this commission. But I do believe that people like me have something important to contribute. When we discuss changes to our criminal laws, these are not abstract policy questions for families like mine, these decisions have real consequences.

I am here because I want Jayana's life to mean something beyond the tragedy of her death. I want to help change policies surrounding Fentanayl overdose victims, close gaps in our laws, and prevent another family from experiencing what my family has experienced. I respectfully ask this commission to consider whether the voices of surviving family members are adequately represented in your work, and if not, what can be done to change that? California's criminal justice policies should be informed not only by those who study the law, but also by those who have lived with the consequences of criminal acts.

Thank you for your time, and for considering the perspective of grieving families like mine, who are living with constant heartbreak from unimaginable loss.

Sincerely,

Kalisha Jackson

Jayana Justice Act of 2027.docx
28K

JAYANA JUSTICE ACT OF 2027
Strategic Legislative Concept Memo

Prepared For: Stakeholders, Victim Advocates, District Attorneys, Law Enforcement Partners, and Legislative Offices

Working Title: The Jayana Justice Act of 2027

Bill Concept Summary

The Jayana Justice Act of 2027 would establish statewide evidence preservation standards for biological samples collected by hospitals during the treatment of patients suffering from suspected fentanyl poisoning or acute drug toxicity resulting in death.

The legislation is inspired by the case of Jayana Nash, whose blood samples were discarded by a medical facility before law enforcement had an opportunity to obtain and preserve critical evidence needed for a criminal investigation. The loss of these samples created significant barriers to determining the source of the fentanyl and pursuing accountability against those responsible.

The bill seeks to ensure that biological evidence capable of identifying the substances involved in a poisoning death is preserved long enough to allow proper notification, investigation, and evidence collection.

Problem Statement

California continues to experience thousands of fentanyl-related deaths each year. In many cases, hospitals collect blood and toxicology samples during emergency treatment efforts. These samples may contain critical evidence regarding:

- The presence and concentration of fentanyl
- The presence of analogs or adulterants
- Potential co-occurring substances
- Timing and circumstances of exposure
- Evidence necessary for homicide, manslaughter, furnishing, or poisoning investigations

Currently, there is no uniform statewide requirement governing how long hospitals must preserve these samples once collected. As a result, biological evidence may be destroyed pursuant to routine medical retention policies before law enforcement, coroners, or families are aware of its significance.

When evidence is destroyed, investigators may lose the ability to identify responsible parties, establish causation, or pursue criminal accountability.

Legislative Intent

The intent of the Jayana Justice Act is to:

1. Preserve critical evidence in suspected fentanyl poisoning deaths.
2. Support investigations involving poisoning and overdose fatalities.
3. Ensure victims' families have notice before potentially important evidence is destroyed.
4. Establish uniform statewide preservation practices.

5. Promote accountability for individuals who distribute or furnish deadly fentanyl.

Proposed Policy Framework

Section 1: Mandatory Preservation Protocols

Require licensed hospitals and emergency departments to develop written policies regarding the preservation of biological samples collected during treatment of patients experiencing:

- Suspected fentanyl poisoning;
- Suspected opioid toxicity;
- Suspected drug poisoning resulting in death; or
- Fatal overdose events under investigation.

Section 2: Minimum Retention Period

Require hospitals to preserve qualifying biological samples for a minimum period of 180 days following death, unless otherwise released pursuant to law.

Alternative policy option:

Require retention until notification is made to immediate family and the appropriate law enforcement agency and the statutory holding period has expired.

Section 3: Law Enforcement Notification Opportunity

Require hospitals to maintain procedures that allow law enforcement agencies investigating the death to request preservation of samples for evidentiary purposes.

Upon receipt of a preservation request, samples shall be retained until released by the requesting agency or pursuant to court order.

Section 4: Family Notification Requirement

Prior to destruction of qualifying samples, hospitals must make reasonable efforts to notify the decedent's next of kin or legal representative.

Notice shall include:

- The intent to destroy the sample;
- The date destruction is scheduled;
- The opportunity to request law enforcement review; and
- Contact information for the relevant agency.

Section 5: Evidence Transfer Procedures

Establish procedures for:

- Chain-of-custody documentation;
- Evidence transfer to law enforcement;

DRAFT

• Secure storage requirements;
• Record retention of transfer documentation.

Section 6: Liability Protection

Provide hospitals with civil liability protections for good-faith preservation and transfer of evidence conducted pursuant to the statute.

Potential Stakeholders

Support

• Crime Victims United
• Victims' rights organizations
• District Attorneys
• County Sheriffs
• Police Chiefs
• Coroners and Medical Examiners
• Parent advocacy groups
• Anti-fentanyl coalitions
• Families impacted by fentanyl poisoning

Potential Concerns

• California Hospital Association
• Hospital systems
• Health care privacy advocates

Likely concerns may include:

• Storage costs
• Administrative burden
• HIPAA compliance
• Chain-of-custody obligations

These concerns can be mitigated through clear statutory language, limited applicability, and liability protections.

Messaging Framework

- Core Message: A family should never lose the opportunity for justice because critical evidence was thrown away before investigators had the chance to collect it.
- Victim-Focused Message: The Jayana Justice Act ensures that families are not denied answers simply because evidence was discarded before an investigation could begin.
- Public Safety Message: Fentanyl poisoning deaths are often criminal acts. Preserving evidence helps law enforcement identify dealers, traffickers, and individuals responsible for distributing deadly substances.
- Accountability Message: Evidence preservation should not depend on differing hospital policies. California should have a consistent statewide standard that protects investigations and victims' rights.

DRAFT

Implementation Considerations

Questions for stakeholders:

- What biological samples are routinely retained today?
- What retention periods currently exist?
- What storage capabilities are available?
- What notification mechanisms are feasible?
- Should the bill apply only to deaths or also to near-fatal poisonings?
- Should coroners be included in the notification process?
- Should retention be triggered by suspected fentanyl exposure, any opioid poisoning, or all suspected drug poisonings?

Recommended Next Steps

1. Convene a stakeholder meeting with victim families, district attorneys, coroners, and hospital representatives.
2. Survey current hospital retention practices.
3. Obtain case examples demonstrating lost evidence due to disposal.
4. Draft legislative language and identify a legislative author.
5. Build a coalition of victim advocates and anti-fentanyl organizations.
6. Develop family-facing materials highlighting Jayana Nash's story and the need for reform.

Conclusion

The Jayana Justice Act of 2027 represents a targeted, common-sense reform designed to preserve critical evidence in fentanyl poisoning deaths. By creating uniform preservation standards, providing notice to families, and ensuring law enforcement has a meaningful opportunity to collect evidence, California can help prevent future investigations from being compromised by the premature destruction of biological samples.

No family seeking answers and accountability should be told that the evidence needed to pursue justice no longer exists because it was discarded before investigators arrived.

DRAFT

Exhibit E

Olivia Gleason on behalf of Arthur Jackson, The People in Blue

Written Comment - Committee on Revision of the Penal Code Hearing

olivia gleason <[redacted]> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 4:34 PM
To: "tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov" <tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov>

Hello, I am submitting a written comment on behalf of Arthur Jackson, Chairman and Co-founder of The People in Blue for today's 10/27 hearing. I was able to read a portion of it during the hearing, but not the entire thing. Thank you very much.

My name is Arthur Jackson. I am the chairman and co-founder of The People In Blue, a diverse committee of incarcerated people dedicated to changing the historically toxic culture inside of California's prisons. Our mission is to promote healing, personal transformation, and civic engagement among incarcerated individuals in California's prisons. We focus on creating spaces of, and for, healing ourselves, our family, our communities, and for survivors.

In our work, we have repeatedly used our combined century plus of lived experience to challenge toxic prison culture, CDCR norms, policies, rules, and regulations that cause harm to both staff and the incarcerated population. One such policy is the 'Proposed Restricted Housing Unit (RHU) regulations which would: (1) completely deny access to phone and messaging apps to people in RHU and in privilege groups C and D (2) prohibit people in RHU and in privilege Group C and D from purchasing food from the canteen or from receiving food packages and (3) allow staff to turn off communication apps for individuals in the general population for 24 hours as a disciplinary measure and prohibit incarcerated people from filing a grievance or appeal of these actions.

CDCR administrators claim that these emergency regulations are in response to an increase in: batteries on staff, overdoses, Attempted Murder, Deadly Weapons incidents, murder, Batteries on Incarcerated People, and serious bodily injury incidents. They claim these changes are intended to: improve safety and reduce violence, strengthen accountability for serious and repeat misconduct, support staff in addressing behavior before it escalates, maintain access to rehabilitation, education, and re-entry programming.

It is our lived experience that the proposed regulations will create a more volatile environment for both staff and incarcerated people. They will isolate the incarcerated person from the needed programming that is designed to address the behavior that led to the rule of violation in the first place.

CDCR has historically employed these types of draconian forms of punishment under the guise of safety and security. These forms of punishment have never worked. When we look at the Security Housing Units SHU's and the similar regulations which the department utilized during the late 1980s to early 2000s, they never worked. During this period, violence, suicides, and Staff Assaults increased. Now, CDCR intends to reactivate these Draconian regulations with no explanation as to how the new rules will accomplish their stated purpose. There is no logical connection between the rule and its desired outcome.

Additionally, to use food and family connections, and then denial thereof, as a source of punishment is nothing less than a human rights violation. Instead of the forms of punishment outlined in these regulations, the focus of the department should be on assigning the incarcerated person to the appropriate self-help groups/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy programs that would address the behavior that led to the rules violation. The department should be focusing more on utilizing programs that heal in response to rule violations, as opposed to programs that harm as a form of behavior modification.

Thank you for your time.

--
Olivia Gleason *Pronouns: she/they*
Communications & Administrative Assistant
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
[redacted]

Follow us!
Bluesky
Facebook
Instagram
CURB's Language Guide

Donate to CURB!

Exhibit F

Syntara Fuller

Public Comment: Opposition to Blanket Commutation - Syntara Fuller (Sandy Friend)

Sandy Pearcy [redacted]> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 4:43 PM
To: tnosewicz@clrc.ca.gov, jhaviland@clrc.ca.gov, rowen@clrc.ca.gov

Good afternoon. My name is Syntara Fuller, and I'm the sister of Michael Lyons.

I understand that people have different opinions about the death penalty, and I respect that this is a complicated issue. But I'm asking you to remember the victims and the families behind these decisions.

My brother was only eight years old when he was brutally murdered. He never got the chance to grow up, and my family has spent years fighting for justice while living with a loss we can never undo.

Last fall, we had to relive that pain all over again through another round of court proceedings. His death sentence was reaffirmed, and now we're facing the possibility of it being commuted.

I understand that people have their beliefs, but what about ours? What about the families who have already lost everything? We don't get a second chance with our loved ones. Michael doesn't get to grow up. We don't get him back.

I'm not asking you to ignore your beliefs. I'm asking you not to ignore us. Please remember that behind every one of these cases is a real person who was taken from this world and a family left to live with that loss forever.

My brother's name is Michael Lyons. He was eight years old. His life mattered, and our family deserves to be heard. I got disconnected on the phone and I called back and pushed the *9 but you said there were no more callers. Thank you for your time.

Thank you.
Syntara Fuller

Exhibit G

Placer County District Attorney's Office and Crime Victims United

October 29, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Chair Michael Romano and Members
Committee on Revision of the Penal Code
925 L Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Formal Request for Victim Representation on the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code and Dedicated Victim-Focused Meeting

Dear Governor Newsom, Chair Romano, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Placer County District Attorney's Office and Crime Victims United, we write to request meaningful, permanent representation of crime victims and survivors on California's Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, as well as an equal opportunity for victims to participate in the Committee's next meeting.

Following the Committee's October 27 meeting, held inside a California state prison, we believe there is an important opportunity for state leadership to demonstrate its commitment to victims' rights, public safety, and balanced criminal justice policy discussions.

During the meeting, approximately 20–30 incarcerated individuals were given more than an hour to engage directly with Committee members, ask questions, and share their perspectives on sentencing, criminal justice policy, and life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). No crime victim or survivor representative was afforded a comparable opportunity. Instead, victims and survivors were limited to just a few minutes of public comment, without a similar opportunity for direct engagement.

We recognize the importance of hearing from individuals directly affected by California's criminal justice system. That consideration, however, must extend equally to victims, surviving families, and communities whose lives have been permanently changed by criminal conduct. This balance is essential to a justice system committed to accountability and public safety.

The Committee's discussions included potential reviews of LWOP sentences and related resentencing considerations. For families affected by homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and other serious crimes, these policies carry profound and lasting consequences. Changes to sentencing and parole laws can reopen cases that victims and families believed had reached a final resolution.

During the October 27 meeting, Committee members identified giving victims a voice and considering public safety as two of the Committee's four stated goals. We welcome these commitments and ask that they be reflected not only in the Committee's recommendations, but also in its membership and meeting structure. Victims and survivors must have meaningful opportunities to participate in the discussions shaping California's criminal justice policies.

Accordingly, we request two specific actions:

1. Establish Two Designated Victim Representative Positions on the Committee

We call on the Governor and state legislative leadership to pursue the necessary statutory changes to establish two designated voting positions on the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code:

- Violent Crime Victim and Survivor Representative: An individual with firsthand experience as a victim or surviving family member of serious violent crime, including homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or related offenses.
- Victims' Constitutional and Civil Rights Representative: An individual with demonstrated expertise in victims' constitutional and statutory rights, including Marsy's Law, victim participation in criminal proceedings, sentencing, parole, resentencing, and the experiences of victims seeking accountability through lawful avenues.

Both representatives should have full voting rights and the same opportunities to participate in deliberations and policy recommendations as other Committee members. These positions would ensure that victims' perspectives are formally incorporated into the Committee's ongoing work rather than dependent on occasional invitations or limited public comment periods.

2. Dedicate the Next Committee Meeting to Victims and Survivors

We also respectfully request that the Committee dedicate its next meeting to hearing directly from crime victims and survivors. In partnership with Crime Victims United and the Placer County District Attorney's Office's Empower + Resilience Project, we propose identifying approximately 20–30 victims and survivors to participate in a roundtable discussion with Committee members.

This would provide victims and survivors an opportunity comparable to that afforded to incarcerated individuals at the October 27 meeting to share their experiences and address questions involving LWOP, death penalty considerations, sentencing reforms, parole, and other policies affecting victims and their families. We would welcome the opportunity to identify participants representing a broad range of experiences involving homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and other serious crimes.

This request is not about limiting anyone's opportunity to participate. It is about ensuring that diverse perspectives are represented and that victims and survivors have an equal opportunity to be heard. California's criminal justice policies affect far more than those serving sentences. They also affect families who have lost loved ones, survivors who continue to live with the consequences of violent crime, and communities that depend on a justice system committed to accountability and public safety.

We respectfully request a written response regarding these proposals and welcome the opportunity to work with the Governor's Office, legislative leadership, and Committee members to advance meaningful victim representation. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to ensuring that all Californians affected by criminal justice policy have a voice in shaping its future.

Sincerely,



Morgan Gire
District Attorney
Placer County District Attorney's Office

Topo Padilla
President
Crime Victims United

CC:
Members, California Committee on Revision of the Penal Code
California State Senate Leadership
California State Assembly Leadership