



# CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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March 27, 2023

Assemblymember Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, California 95814

CC: Assemblymembers Megan Dahle, Isaac Bryan, Wendy Carrillo, Diane Dixon, Mike Fong, Lisa Calderon, Gregg Hart, Josh Lowenthal, Devon Mathis, Diane Papan, Gail Pellerin, Robert Rivas, Kate A. Sanchez, Akilah Weber, and Lori Wilson, and Chief Consultant Jay Dickenson

RE: Assembly Bill 742 - Notice of Opposition, As Amended 3/15/23

Dear Assemblymember Holden,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 742, which would limit law enforcement's use and training of police canines.

CCCA is concerned that by limiting the use of police canines, local law enforcement agencies will lose a resource that allows them to de-escalate scenarios of arrest or apprehension. Local law enforcement agencies rely on police canines for their sense of smell to help officers find hidden suspects, which is especially helpful in situations where suspects may respond violently after being discovered. Further, hidden suspects often surrender once warned that canines are being deployed, de-escalating the interaction at the onset. To date a number of law enforcement agencies, including the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the City of Fresno's Police Department, have voiced concerns in regards to AB 742 and how it would limit their ability to serve and protect communities. Given canines are often used in these high-risk arrest scenarios, CCCA shares these concerns. We feel officers should have access to less lethal resources like police canines in these dangerous situations.

CCCA represents over 85 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them, including public safety. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our opposition to AB 742.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director