



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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March 19, 2024

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Assemblymembers Juan Alanis, Tom Lackey, Stephanie Nguyen, Eloise Gómez Reyes, Philip Ting, Lori Wilson, and Rick Chavez Zbur, and Committee Chief Counsel Sandy Uribe

RE: Assembly Bill 1839 - Notice of Support, As Introduced 1/16/24

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our support of Assembly Bill 1839, which would establish the Law Enforcement Officer Grant Program under the administration of the Student Aid Commission.

CCCA routinely supports statewide and local policies that create incentives for recruitment and retention of peace officers in local law enforcement agencies. Last year many of California's local law enforcement agencies faced retention and recruitment issues. In 2023 the San Francisco Police Department was [down more than 600 officers](#), which is nearly 30 percent of its allotment. Similarly, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had [more than 2,000 open deputy positions](#), which reflected a shortfall of nearly 20%. By passing AB 1839, the State can help boost law enforcement recruitment by providing grants of up to \$6,000 per year to students enrolled in a modern policing degree program at a California community college who commit to working as a peace officer for four years. Given the rise in retail crime and other theft around the State, our organization feels AB 1839 is a crucial piece of legislation that can directly help to improve public safety in our communities today.

CCCA represents 80 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. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our support of AB 1839.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director