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September 13, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
 State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Fax: 916-445-4633

VIA FAX

**RE: SB 511, SB 756, SB 609 – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As Director of the Alternate Defender's of Orange County, I strongly urge you to protect the innocent by signing SB 511, SB 756, and SB 609. *How could anyone be against protecting the innocent? The monetary costs to law enforcement are negligible especially when compared to the payouts for lawsuits.*

I and my staff are dedicated to protecting the innocent from wrongful conviction. Yet, all too often, judges and juries are misled by poor quality evidence, including tainted eyewitness identifications, unreliable statements, and false testimony from informants. *This is especially true in counties like Orange where it is the natural inclination of jurors to side with and automatically trust their government.*

These three bills will implement the reforms suggested by the non-partisan California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. They will address the most common causes of wrongful conviction. Specifically:

- Senate Bill 511, sponsored by Senator Elaine K. Alquist (D-San Jose), will require the electronic recording of police interrogation in cases involving homicides and other violent felonies.
- Senate Bill 756, sponsored by Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), will require the Attorney General to draft guidelines for the conduct of police line-ups and photo arrays to increase the accuracy of eyewitness identifications.
- Senate Bill 609, sponsored by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), will require the corroboration of testimony by jailhouse informants.

Again, I strongly encourage you to sign SB 511, 756, and 609 into law.

Sincerely,



Marri Derby

Director—Alternate Defender

cc: California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice via fax: (408) 554-5026